

Political Dialogues

Between the CELEBRATED

1608/2346

STATUES

OF

Pasquin and Marforio

AT

ROME.

In which

The ORIGIN and VIEWS of the late
WAR, the SECRET MEDIATION
of the present PEACE, and the
genuine CONDITIONS of it, are
brought to Light.

Translated from the Original *Italian*, published
the First day of the present Year.

Dedicated to the Renowned Modern *Equilibrist*.

L O N D O N:

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STATUTES

OF THE

PARLIAMENT

IN THE

SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING WILLIAM IV.

IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

THESE STATUTES HAVE BEEN ENACTED

BY HIS MAJESTY'S MOST EXCELLENT

PARLIAMENT

IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF HIS MAJESTY'S

SAYED MAJESTY'S

SEVENTH YEAR

IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF HIS MAJESTY'S

SAYED MAJESTY'S



To the most Renowned Modern EQUILIBRIST.

S I R,

Although your Excursions from your own Country have been more in quest of *Wealth* than Knowledge, I cannot suppose you unacquainted with the Merit of the celebrated *Foreigners* I here do myself the Honour to introduce to you. I will not imagine that so strenuous an assertor of *Liberty* as you are known to be, can be a Stranger to the only two at *Rome* who have out-lived the *Freedom* of their Country: And though you may be too rigid a *Protestant* to hold an immediate Correspondence with any of the *Pontiff's* Subjects, it is to be hoped, you will not think it an Offence to your Religion, to Patronize those of them who shall be ushered to you, as these are, in an *English* Dress, and by a Member of the Reformation.

If the Banker *B . . . i*, some Years ago, had had the Precaution of covering himself, as my *Pasquin* and *Marforio* do at present by my Hands, with the Armour of Intelligible *English* Language, It is probable he would have escaped the *Censure* passed upon him. *B . . . i* was guilty of another notorious Blunder, which my Authors have prudently avoided; That was, he manifested too tender a Regard for the *Plundered* and Unfortunate amongst us; an Affront, so Charitably Gross, as no good Protestant was able to put up.

I do confess, that *Marforio*, in my Original, speaks with great Freedom of the present State of our *Liberty*, but I have taken care in his *English* Garb, that he should not offend Ears so delicate as yours, with Truths in which your Family is too nearly interested. If I have permitted him to chatter concerning some Secret *Machinations* of a near Relation of yours; If I have allowed him to be smart on some of your own Transactions; If I have not silenced him when he makes a little free with your Character as a *Negotiator*; and if I have not quite shaded his Animadversions on our General Conduct for the last Half Century, I beseech you to impute it rather to Necessity than Choice. It would have been impossible to render him Intelligible, or to have produced him consistent with himself, if I had stifled his Sentiments on these Particulars.

Pasquin and *Marforio* have a better Title to your Friendship, Sir, than perhaps you would imagine. They are famed for being Learnedly *Awkward* and *Slovenly*, so are you; they are, like you, *Waggish*, *Arch*, and *Droll*, and have often received wholesome *Correction* for being unseasonably *Witty* and *Obscene*: They have been as fortunate as yourself in breeding *Dissention* in Private Families, though not quite so often caught *Tripping* in Publick Assemblies: And they have, like you, been supported in their own Country, with all their Faults, but with this Difference, that their Support consisted chiefly in Wit and keen Satyr, yours solely in a *Golden Number*.

You will find, *Marforio* a Smatterer in *Politicks*, like your dear self, and you will see that *Pasquin* has as great an Itch to running his *Nose* into things above his *Capacity*, as you can for your Life. They both of them are great Adepts in the

successful as your precious self, in making many Breaches by endeavouring to heal one. In short, Sir, you and this celebrated chiselled Couple are so every way alike, that the Curious have not scrupled to maintain you were all three Chips of the same Block.

But whither as a M . . . r and a Protestant, you will think it fate, to claim Kindred to these Foreign Papists, I do not know; though give me leave to say, you may be guilty of a more imprudent Step, in this time of *Mystery and Danger*, than that of taking into your Bosom, Relations of their Sagacity and unerring Intelligence. Their Friendship may be of Advantage to you in your future Negotiations; nay, it may be of singular Use to your Family, in case another War should break out before a Regenerating Act be obtained: And you have some slight Reasons for apprehending that the present situation of Affairs abroad do not promise lasting Peace to your native Country.

These old Roman Statues are more significant Personages, if I may be allowed the Expression, than probably you take them for: *Marforio*, particularly, is deeply skilled in the Science of *over-reaching*, and expert in ferretting out the Secrets of the Cabinet; he acts without Salary or Pension, no contemptable Qualification, I assure you in a *Parsimonious Administration*; and can inform you, more truly, of the Secrets of Rome, than all that expensive, walking Herd your B . . . r maintains there at present.

I must not conclude without making some Apology for your Kinsman *Marforio*, for having revealed the Secrets of the late Mediation; it being probable he may have set that mysterious Transaction in another Light, than some of the Family would have it seen. You may be also offended at him for stripping you of the Glory of the present Peace; but alas, Sir, your Cousin has done no more than the whole World, a few stationed Pensioners of your B . . . rs excepted, have done before him. A very little time must have publicly despoiled you of all your borrowed Honours and exposed you and yours to the derision of Mankind.

Has not than *Marforio* acted the Part of a Friend, in thus early detecting a Fraud, that must have perpetuated the Infamy of your House, if she had any longer continued the Wear of an Olive she had no sort of Claim to? Fame, founded on Truth and Virtue, will be more durable than either Brass or Marble; but that supported only by Deception, will quickly fade and vanish. Assume not therefore, Glories you have no Title to; be contented with that Portion of Fame you had acquired at Paris, Soissons, and the Hague, and travel not now in the Decline of your Years, farther than your Fortune intitled you, in the prime of your Youth. Should you attempt making the Experiment, you will certainly become more ridiculous than you are at present. A Peace and a Coronet you wanted, and a Peace you have, at least for the present; the Coronet may follow sooner perhaps, than you ought to wish it should. Bless God for the seasonable Boon, and envy not those who had procured it, the virtuous Glory due to their Labours. This is the wholesome Advice of your Friend and faithful Servant,

The Translator.

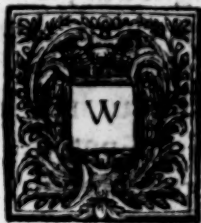


*Political Dialogues between the
celebrated Statues of Pasquin
and Marforio at Rome.*

DIALOGUE I.

Pasquin and Marforio.

Marf.



WHAT do I behold, my poor,
battered, old Friend, *Pas-*
quin booted and spurred on
the Eve of the great Festival
of the Nativity of the Blessed
Saviour ! One would think
the Solemnity of the Feast might induce a Chris-
tian People to let thee be at rest on this joyful
Night. Has our Pontiff then shook Hands with
Calvin ? Have our Cardinals subscribed to
the Doctrine of *Geneva* ? Or have all our *Romans*
bartered *Infallibility* for *Private Judgment*, that we
see thee, *Pasquin*, thus servilely employed, at an
Hour set apart by the Church for solemnizing
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the Glorious Incarnation of the Son of God ? — Well may the Enemies of our Holy Religion tax us with Hypocrisy and Inconsistency of Worship, when they see so glaring an Instance of our Disregard for the Omnipotent, Commiserating Redeemer of Mankind ; and that too, in the Spiritual Metropolis of the World, and under the Nose of *Christ's* Vicegerent on Earth.

I hope, my dear *Pasquin*, the *Ottoman* Armada has not been seen in the *Adriatick*, and that thou are not carrying Orders for removing the immense Treasure of *Loretto*, to a Place of greater Security ; for Fear of a Visit from the unhallowed Circumcised Sons of *Mahomet*. I should think no Errant of less Importance could warrant our Superiors in such a Breach of this annual Christian Festival. As for thy Part, *Pasquin*, though thou hast been a meddling, busy Fellow in thy time, I do not think thou wouldest prophane this Holy Hour, without absolute Necessity, or absolute Command. Prithee, whither art thou bound with that monstrous Packet in thy Hand ?

Pasq. My old, Nose-less Neighbour, I will indulge thy Curiosity for once, provided thou promise to keep the Secret, and become less inquisitive for the Time to come. Thou hast always been a prying, intriguing, jealous-pated, intricate Animals, who had often imposed on my good Nature, and wrested Secrets for me, under the Veils of Friendship and old Acquaintance ; which, in Honour, I ought not to have discovered, nor thou, in Honesty, ought not to have revealed.

These false Steps, *Marforio*, have brought both thee and me into great Content and Disreputation with the sacred College ; and, without doubt, have occasioned the little Confidence reposed in us, by those impenetrable Sages, during the



the late Commotions of *Europe*. It is true, I was sometimes employed to carry Instructions to several of our *Nuncio's* at the jarring Courts, and had brought back their Dispatches to the *Vatican*; but I knew no more all the while, of the Contents of what I so carefully delivered, than the Winds I rid upon, or thee, *Marfy*, who had never stirred from off thy Foot-Stool. And what was this melancholy Distrust owing to, think thee, but to the ill Use I had formerly made of their Confidence, by revealing to thee Secrets which thou hadst imprudently ridiculed, and exposed to the vulgar Herd.

Hence flow all my present Uneasiness; hence comes it, my dear Friend, that I know so very little of Publick Affairs; nay, hence also it comes, that I am ignorant of these very Preliminary Articles just now put into my Hands by the Cardinal Secretary for Prince *Corsini* at *Naples*: But what gives me greatest Pain, is, that I do not know how or by what Means, this same Peace came to be patched up, just when most People thought the Continuance of the War unavoidable. My Anxiety still encreases, when I consider that I had not been able to ferret out even the genuine Motives of a War that had inflamed above two Thirds of *Europe*. These dreadful Calamities, my dear Friend, hang heavy upon me; for thou knowest I subsist by Scandal and Intelligence,—— I am lost without the toothsome Food.

Marf. I am sorry, my little Mercurial Friend, to see thee so out of Humour with thyself and me, for thy Ignorance of what passed since, and some little Time before the breaking out of the late War: And though I am not a little pleased to see thee, who had always valued thyself for being let into all Secret of the Cabinet, humbled

and mortified on this Occasion ; yet in Consideration of thy former Services and Friendship for me, I promise to quiet thy Mind, and let thee into all the Secrets that relate to the Beginning, Progress, and ending of the late War : For I would have thee, my Political Courier, to know, that I have my Agents at all the Courts of *Europe*, who inform me of the most Minute Transactions of the Cabinet, even that of the Princes differing from our Pontiff in Communion.

In vain do these Sons of *Luther* and *Calvin* think to carry on Schemes, or pretend to keep Secrets from me, tho' I never stir from this awful Situation : My Emisseries are every where ; and they are supple, subtle Creatures, who penetrate into Actions the most Secret and Mysterious, without being known or perceived. I am amply informed this Month of the Transactions of the last all over *Europe*, and so every alternate Month the whole Year round. Count *Osterman*, whither at *St. Petersburg* or *Musco*, neither sends nor receives Dispatches I am not made acquainted with, nor does he hold a Cabinet Council I do not know the Result of. I am equally Master of what Prince *Eugene* and Count *Zinzendorff* transact at *Vienna*, *Luxemburg*, or *La Favorita*. Count *Horn* at *Stockholm*, does not make a single Proposal to his new *German* Master (and many he has made to him of late Years) for increasing his Power, and courtailing that of his Subjects, but I am informed of in three Weeks Time. I am, in less than a Fortnight, acquainted with what passes between ——— *Bork*, and his *Prussian* Majesty, whither the Conversation turns upon Methods for securing the Reversion of *Juliers* and *Bergs*, the annexing two neighbouring *Dutchies* to the *Brandenburg* Dominions, or to augmenting the Number of the terribly
pacifick

pacifick tall Grenadiers. My Informations from *H——r*, generally arrive as soon as those from *Berlin*. I know to a Guinea, and often to a Crown Piece, the amount of the Sums that come by Bill of Exchange, and by the *Dutch* Traders from *L——* to the Castle of *H——r*; and the cautionary *Orders* from Baron *Hartoff* to the Regency, are no more Secrets to me, than to the Writer or Receiver of them.

My Advices from *Holland* come to me with greater Expedition; for in ten Days I am made acquainted with the Schemes and deep laid Designs of the *O——ge* Faction, and with the Jealousies and Counter-Schemes of the Republicans in Power. In the same Number of Days, I am equally informed of the secret *Cabals* of a certain awkward, heavy, slovenly, but assuming *Equilibrist*, in favour of a Stadtholder, and of his publick *Professions* for supporting the present Form of Government against the open and secret Enemies of the *States*. I have been made acquainted, in eight Days, with the Purport of that same half-fledged *Politician's* sanguine and hostile *Publick Memorials*, and of his repeated Assurances in Private, that what he had done, was purely in Obedience to his Pacifick *Brother*, who wanted to be thought a mettled brisk Fellow upon his own *Dunghill*.

My Advices from a neighbouring Kingdom, have not indeed, been with equal Celerity; but this was more owing to her insular Situation, than to the supineness of my Correspondents, who, thank my Stars, are as regular as they are numerous. For thou must know, my dear *Pasquin*, that the Inhabitants of that *Island* are all Politicians, or at least think themselves so, which is pritty near the same thing, as to Self-interest;

Nay, they conceit themselves to be all *Free* too; but alas, their Politicks are as *Immature* as their Freedom is *Chimerical*. However, the Political Itch they have upon them, and the Ideal *Freedom* they enjoy, have been of singular Use to me in my Political Re-searches: For though my Intelligence from that Quarter, has been, for the most Part, stuffed with Absurdity and Inconsistency, yet, as my Experience in Business has been extraordinary, I have readily sifted the Grain from the Chaff very much to my own Satisfaction, and the Emolument of the busy World.

This *Western* Cabinet has furnished me with more Variety, since the memorable *Mississipi* Year, than almost all the other Cabinets of *Europe* put together; for the Prime *Director* there, having taken it into his Noddle, that he was a consummate Statesman, was willing, by a general continued *Negotiation*, to oblige the World to think him so too. He thought, no doubt, to ape the famous *Richlieu*, who recommends constant *Negotiation*: But alas, the puny, modern *Copyist*, destitute of the Judgment and Sagacity of the Great Original, sunk in the *Ford* the other had waded over with Honour to himself, and Advantage to his Country. Thou and I, *Pasquin*, remember the Imputations of Weakness and Pusillanimity *Louis XIII.* lay under, for suffering himself to be governed by *Richelieu*; but for my Part, I was then, as I am still, of Opinion he was the wisest Prince of his Time. His Wisdom was not only manifest in his Choice of a Minister, but in his Continuance of him after he had experienced his Integrity and Superior Abilities. Had the most Christian Monarch, indeed, like some others, known to thee, *Pasquin*, and to me, found himself sinking in the Esteem of all his Neighbours,
and

and in the Affections of his most faithful *Subjects*, from the Influence of his *Minister*, and continued his Protection to him: I say, had this been *Louis's* Case, I should have joyned in the Cry against him, and dubb'd him a weak and obstinate King. — But whether am I launching, I should remember that the living often take Offence at Encomiums bestowed on the Dead, and that Crowned Heads look upon Parellel-Makers with jealous Eyes.

I perceive thy Impatience, *Pasquin*, to acquit thyself of the Trust reposed in thee. Go then and be sure to behave thyself with the most cautious Impartiality at the Court of *Naples*; for new Kings, and those injoying Crowns in virtue of popular and precarious Tenures, are generally severe, jealous, and suspicious. They are uneasy to themselves, and not less so to their Subjects. The Mass of the People are prone to change and love Variety; but they are soon brought to a Sense of their *Interest* and Mistake, when a new King listens to the pernicious Council of those about him, who advise him rather to found his Safety in *Power*, than in the Affections of a Multitude. Our old Friend *Machiavel*, and the rest of his ever-refined Brethren, have been too warm in their Recommendation of the Use of Force in Government; but Experience has given them the Lye, and may convince Princes, that the Affections of the Subject are better Securities than Axes, Gibbets, Gallies, Prison, *National Debts*, Armies or Fleets. —

Be wise, *Pasquin*, and chatter not of the Virtues of the late Possessor of the *Sicilian* Throne. Panygerick on a late Occupier, is poison to the Ear of an actual Possessor. Be prudent, I say my little active Friend, raise thyself no Enemies by being Satyrical, or the present Reign, or lavish

of thy Encomiums on the late ; they are equally dangerous. Confide not in any Friendship thou mightest have formerly contracted with those in Power at the present *Neopolitan* Court. They will deceive thee ; for they support themselves by carrying Tales, and by giving an ill Impression to the Prince of his most faithful Subjects. They subsist by Falshood, ingross Power, and raise Estates, by keeping their Master in fatal Ignorance and Mistake ; He, indeed, is young and unexperienced, and so far is to be pitied ; but there are Princes, my dear *Pasquin*, from whose Years and Experience, one might expect Solidity, and good Sense, who suffer themselves to be hoodwinked, and led by the most abandoned of Men. Their *Fall*, whenever it happens, will be as unpitied by the Wise and Virtuous, as their Persons are now despised and contemned. Power and Force may preserve them for a Time, precarious Comfort ! But certain Ruin must inevitably be the Lott of those who lose the Hearts of their People, which never fails to happen from the Continuance of coercive Measures.

I have known, in my time, many of those deluded Princes, who pinned their Safety to the Sleeves of a small Party, formed for his own immediate Safety, by a bold and power-grasping *Under-Agent* ; but I have always observed, they were as unfortunate as they were weak and unwise. And I have observed also, that for the most part, *Avarice*, that Root of all Evil, was the *Magnet* which drew all their Calamities upon them. This Passion, of all those Human Nature is liable to, is never satiated. It grows up with Man as he advances into Years, and blossoms in old Age, when all his other Passions subside and wither. Cruel Companion, which ingrosses the
Soul

Soul most, when the *Case* is least capable of relishing the Enjoyments of Life ? This innate, imperceptible Tyrant, *Pasquin*, makes great Havock in private Life ; but he lays all waste, and ravages without Mercy when he is seized of *Thrones*. A covetuous *King* is the greatest National *Curse* in the Store of Heaven ; he does not only plunder himself, but protects the *Plunderers* of his People ; he chuses his Favourites from amongst the Corrupt and Vicious, and they rise or sink in his Esteem, in Proportion to their Skill in fleecing the *Publick*, and Assiduity in filling his *Coffers*. His Councils and his Senates meet but to gratify his Minion *Passion* ; his Treaties and Alliances are calculated to give Colour for *Oppression*, and his *Truces* are as burthensome to his Subjects, as the Wars of his Predecessors. All his Thoughts, all his Actions tend to the Accumulation of Wealth, and though he himself be the greatest *Oeconomist* in his Dominions, he encourages Profusion and Luxury in others, for the Advancement of his *Revenues*, or for Purposes less justifiable.

But I should remember, my good *Pasquin*, that you have a long Journey to make : I am so out of Humour at the Vice and Corruption of the present Age, that I loose all my Patience, and forget that thou art naturally an Enemy to long-winded Harangues. Fly then my Friend, and bring us glad Tidings from the Shrine of St. *Janvier*, that great Worker of Miracles. At thy Return I will keep my Promise with thee, and satiate thy Curiosity as to the publick Affairs. But what do I see, Signior C——, the Apostolick Cabinet Courier in full Speed bound for *Naples*. Thou mayest, my little *Mercury*, intrust him with thy Dispatches, or accompany him in his Journey.

Pasq.

Pas. I will take thy first Advice *Marforio*, for thou hast given me a Surfeit of the young Monarch's Court ; I have no Stomach for the Air of *Sicily* or *Spain*, which my natural Freedom of Speech might probably oblige me to breathe, if I should once set my Foot within the Reach of the Stripling *Don's* Power. No, no, I am an Enemy to Restraint, Freedom is my Birth-right ; I have enjoyed it for many Centuries in spite of the *Inquisition* ; I preserved it during the Pontificate of *Sixtus V.* himself, and I am resolved not to part with it whilst the least Trace of the Chisel remain on my furrowed Forehead. Liberty, my dear *Marforio*, is the greatest Blessing Heaven can bestow ; she was given Man for a Completion of his Terrestrial Happiness, and is it not amazing he should part with the glorious Bliss, for the Geugaws and Smiles of the Ambitious ! How divinely bright, my old Friend, did this lovely Goddess shine here in the Infancy of this August Place of our Birth ; how received and adored was she, before cursed Ambition, Craft, and Intrigue drove her to the bleak Regions of the North and West !—You, my dear *Marforio*, and myself, have been, for Ages, the only Harbingers of the Divinity in *Rome*, thanks be to the Envy and Malice of the abject Slaves around us.

Marf. Alas, my good *Pasquin*, the Freedom we enjoy deserves not the Name of Liberty ; we harbour not the Deity but by stealth and in the Dark ; we are not permitted to entertain her by the Light of the Sun, nor to treat her without Restraint. We are narrowly observed by the Officers of the *Holy Office* on one Hand, and by the Civil Magistrate on the other ; our Complaints must be in the General ; the Liberty of
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arraigning Particulars, or pointing out the Vices and Crimes of Individuals is not allowed us. We are obliged to deal in Fable and Allusion only, and even these are often strained, tortured, and construed to our Destruction, by some venal, abject Slave clothed in *Furr*, deeply skilled in the Doctrine of *Inuendo*. If we speak to be understood, we are torn to Pieces by the *Harpies* of Lawless Power; and if we veil our Thoughts with Allegory, the Gross of the People see not our Meaning till their Properties are invaded, and their Freedom be lost beyond Resource. Talk not then, my old Acquaintance, of Liberty in *Rome*; she has no Mansion here; that Liberty you so much brag of, that *Phantome* you and I enjoy, is but the Shadow of the Goddess.

I do agree, *Pasquin*, that *Liberty* took her flight to the North and West after she quitted *Italy*; but alas! her Stay in those boistrous Climates was not of long Duration. Folly, Craft, and fell Ambition, forced her beyond the *Line*, to some barren Soil not worth the Care or Contention of the Proud and Vicious. The fair *Nymph* had a Temple erected to her in *Hungary*, and another in *Bohemia*, but Ambition, my Friend, had long since drove her thence. She was for some time also, revered in *Germany*, but there remain no Footsteps of the Deity there at present. I once thought her abode in *Denmark* and *Sweden* would have been of Duration, but thou seest I was mistaken; there is not a Trace of the Goddess to be found in the first, and what appears of her in the other, is mere Tinsel and Outside. A few slavish Subjects in this last, to gratify private Avarice and Ambition, have fettered the fair Maid, and delivered her in that Condition to their Foreign *Master*, to be disposed of

of at his Pleasure. The Goddess had been banished the wide extended *Russian* Empire for Ages and her Shrines in *Poland*, the only Kingdom in the *North*, where she had been longest adored, are now scarce perceivable. A———, II. untiled her Temples there, about thirty Years ago, and it is probable, his Son will throw down the Walls, and as *Troy* was sowed of old, sow Wheat or Salt where the bright Fabrick stood.

Should we seek the Goddess *Westward*, we shall still find her Track covered over with the Dust of Power and Corruption. As she had always delighted most to breathe the freer Air of Commonwealths, one would think she might be found in that of *Holland*; but I assure thee, my dear *Pasquin*, the real Goddess is long since flown from thence, and left only a false *Demon* behind her, attired in her refulgent Robes. The Gross of the *Dutch*, like the Multitude at *Venice*, are Slaves, abject Slaves, with this Difference, that here the Tyrants are Hereditary, and there they are *durante Vita* only. Would you believe it *Pasquin*, that there are at this very Time, a very few in *Holland*, not above six in Number, who govern as absolutely all the Seven Provinces, as ever *Louis XIV.* did the Kingdom of *France*. believe me there are; the Conduct of the *States* during the late War, confirms to a Demonstration, what I have said concerning the Power and Influence of these few. Wars and Confusions naturally rouse the Multitude to an exertion of their Freedom; the War of 1672, stripped the *De Witts* of their Influence and their Lives into the Bargain. The present *Dutch Dictators* are wise from Example, and have and will, I dare Answer for it, go into no Measures that shall endanger

endanger their own Influence, let the Consequence to the Commonwealth be never so fatal.

I shall not trouble thee, *Pasquin*, with a Relation of the present State of *Liberty* in *France*, *Spain* and *Portugal*, because thou well knowest that two Members of the *Sacred College* had quite banished the Goddess from the First, towards the Beginning of the last Century; and as to the two more *Southern Kingdoms*, where the *Inquisition* continues its pristine Force and Vigour, you know too much of that awful Judicature, to expect that fair Liberty should be worshiped within the Extent of its Jurisdiction.

Pasq. Art thou tired already *Marforio*, of following the Goddess from Region to Region in vain? If thou art so soon out of Breath, thou wilt never be able to perform thy Promise to me concerning the Origin, Progress, and Exit of the late War. I am much afraid, my antique Neighbour, thy Memory fails thee, as much, or more, than thy Lungs; for, what else, but the want of Memory or Malice, could have induced thee to beat up for the Milk-white *Hind* every where but just where thou wert morally sure to find her; Methinks a quick-scented Political Beagle, as thou art reputed to be, would have smelt out the Divine Game during thy Stay, short as it was, either in *Holland* or *France*: But perhaps the Squeamishness of thy Stomach, and the Cowardliness of thy Heart, would not permit thee, my old, but Fresh-water Friend, to venture thy shattered Carcass on the Salt, faithless Deep, in quest of the lovely *Wanderer*. Be ingenuous with me *Marforio*, and tell me why thou didst not seek out the Goddess in the fair Fields of *Britain* where her Temples are said to be crowded with *Votaries* superlatively happy.

Marf.

Marf. The *Britons*, my dear *Pasquin*, were they all of the same Opinion concerning the present State of their Freedom, as they are not, would not be the only People in the World that had thought themselves *Free* without being really so. Our own Countrymen, a very few virtuous Patriots excepted, had bragged of their Freedom during the Influence of that Monster *Sejanus*, though the whole World, besides themselves, saw they were the most abject Slaves under the Sun. The Word *Liberty*, it is true, was in the Mouths of all our grave Senators; and the *Capitol* echoed the glorious Sound; but alas, Echo and Sound were all the deluded *Romans* were possessed of in those unhappy Days. *Julius* and *Augustus* had artfully grafted *Irreligion*, *Luxury*, and worse, *Corruption* on fair Freedom's Tree, which *Sejanus*, under the Shadow of *Tyberius's* Power had so studiously dressed and pruned, that the poisonous Branches soon reached the Skies, and shaded the whole Empire. The old *Trunk* remained, it is true, but so withered and shrivelled, that it stood quite neglected, whilst universal Adoration was paid the baleful Head. All the Actions of that wicked *Minister* had the Sanction of the *Senate*; but how was that awful Sanction obtained? Wilt thou say that Dread of his Power and *Corruption* have had no share in the servile Condescension of that one August Assembly, or that a People can be called *Free*, that have their Liberties and Properties bartered away for the Gold and Smiles of a powerful, insatiable *Fellow-Subject*.

No, my dear *Pasquin*, Servitude is still Servitude, whether it be dealt out by one or many Hands; it is not one Whit the more palatable for being cooked up by the concurrent Assent of
many;

many; I should rather think it less loathsome when it is served up by single than by a complicated Power, because the Probability of its Duration, under the Direction of single Tyranny, is not so strong as when it is countenanced and supported by a *Pensioned Herd*. The Multitude become much sooner jealous of the Attempts of an individual than of the more specious Attacks of Numbers, particularly when these last have the Art to gild over their Designs with Patriotism and publick Good, in which they seldom are wanting. — Dost thou think, *Pasquin*, the old *Romans*, debased as they were, would have so tamely and so long bore the Weight of *Sejanus's* Yoke, if their supposed Guardians, the *Senate*, had not authorized all the Acts of his Power. Not at all, my dear Friend, the Continuance of his Influence and Wickedness was solely owing to that ingrafted Veneration which our Ancestors bore to every thing that had Senatorial *Sanction*. They vainly imagined, for a while, those *Overseers* of their Liberties not to have been susceptible of Corruption, nor capable of betraying the Confidence reposed in them. They were weak enough to imagine, these *Pillars* of their Freedom would not have put up the Liberties of the Community, with which their own and that of Posterity were blended, to *publick Sale*; they could not be persuaded, that the venerable Fathers of their Country would have bowed their Necks for present *Sordid Gain*, to be trod upon by a Wicked, Ambitious, Mushroom *Minister*, whose Vanity and Corruption were as notorious as his want of Skill and Ability, for the Trust reposed in him by his partial Master, was conspicuous.

But we now know, *Pasquin*, that our Ancestors, wise and jealous of their Freedom, as the World took them to be, were mistaken, most grossly
mistaken

mistaken. We know that they were betrayed by their *Guardians*, and that publick Veneration for the Acts of the *Senate* had brought about, at last, the Privation of that *Liberty*, which had been the Glory as well as Security of the *Antients*, and the Work of Ages. The Records of Antiquity are full of the bad Consequences that had attended the Venality of National Assemblies ; Modern History furnishes many Examples of the same Nature, and it is now no Secret that all the present Despotick Power of *Europe* is founded on the Corruption of those that were bound as well in Duty as in Interest to stand in the way of Lawless and Arbitrary Force.—But to give you my Thoughts of the present State of *Liberty* in *Britain*, where you seem to think the lovely *Virgin* Reigns with uncontrouled Authority,

In my Enquiry after the bright *Deity*, I own I purposely avoided seeking her amongst a *People* to whom my Countrymen here at *Rome* are more obliged than to any other Nation in *Europe*. I was unwilling to differ in Opinion, as I must have done, if I did not differ from myself, from a *People* that spend annually so much of their *Wealth* amongst the abject Slaves of *Italy*. They are a proud, haughty Nation, that do not easily brook Contradiction from any *Foreigners*, but those that eat of their *Manna*, and drink of their *Nectar* within the Bounds of their own *Four Narrow Seas*. But since you require it, *Pasquin*, I shall trace out, in the best Manner I am able, the Footsteps of *Liberty* amongst a *People*, that will not allow any of their Neighbours on the Continent to have any Sort of Acquaintance with her ; but I must tell the before hand, that the Undertaking will very likely be attended with Banishment, from amongst them, of our beloved *Favionelli*, and all our other whist-

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ling and fiddling Country-Men and Women, who long have, and now do, raise handsome Estates by the Courtesy and Curiosity of these Western *Immorato's* of F——e Freedom and Novelty.—— I see thee resolved to satiate thy Curiosity, at any Hazard, and therefore thus begin ——

If real *Liberty*, consisted in the Variety of Religious Worship, and in unbounded Licentiousness of Writing and Speaking, the *Britons* may be said to enjoy the Divine Blessing in higher Perfection than even our own Ancestors, from the expulsion of the *Tarquins*, to the Dictatorship of *Julius*. But as I am of Opinion, that there are very many other more valuable Ingredients necessary, towards the Composition of what I understand by real *Freedom*, I cannot help dissenting from those who imagine the solid Blessing is now to be found in that once happy *Island*.

* * * * *

—— de sunt *Muha*.

Pasquin. I cannot doubt, *Marforio*, of the Truth of thy Account of the present *Freedom* of a People you seem to be intimately acquainted with, and I own myself much obliged to thee, for setting me right, as to the Nature of their Government and Constitution, which I confess to have always, before now, seen in quite another Light than thou hast put them into. I imagined the *Genius* of antient *Rome* had been transplanted to the fair *Island*, and that all her happy Inhabitants breathed *Consular* Air. But I see my Error, and am now convinc'd, that somewhat more than empty Sound, Tumult, Freedom of Tongue and Pen is required to constitute real spotless Liberty. I see the Difference between substantial and imaginary Happiness, and easily perceive how successfully Art and Ambition may be

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employed, amongst a People that are incapable of distinguishing the *Substance* from the *Shadow*. I see also, that a People may be accessory to their own Incapacity of *distinguishing*, and that no *Incapacity* is so shameful and dangerous as that rooted in *Corruption*, and supported by *Luxury*.—But how, my good Friend, do the Vices of distant Nations affect either thee or me, whose Influence is confined within the narrow Limits of these old Walls. Let our Endeavours be to combat Religious Corruption here at home, and prevent the *Fiend* from seizing upon the *Vatican*; as for the Sons and Daughters of the *North and West*, let them barter their precious *Jewels* away for *Chaff*, forget their own virtuous *Ancestors*, and disregard *Posterity* as much as they please; It matters not, old *Pasquin*.—Prepare thy self *Marforio*, to satisfy the further Curiosity of thy old Acquaintance in relation to the late War; I shall lend thee my Ear as soon as the sable Curtains of to-morrow's Night are drawn between Mortal Eyes and the bright Rays of the God of Day.—Adieu old Block, Adieu.

DIALOGUE II.

Marf. **I**N order, *Pasquin*, to give thee a true Idea of the Origin of the late War, I must be at the Pains of leading thee back as far as the Year 1688: For, except I refresh thy Memory with a few cursory Observations on many Transactions of Moment, antecedent to the War under our present Consideration, I shall find it difficult to bring thee to a perfect Acquaintance with the genuine Springs, that had set the hostile *Machine* in Motions.

Pasq.

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Pasq. I presume, *Marforio*, by thy *Exordium*, and thy Air, that thou art inclined to sift this Matter to the Bottom, and that I may not be tempted to give thee any Interruption in thy Narrative, I beseech thee, to indulge my Curiosity in Relation to one Trivial Point, before thou growest too serious for impertinent Inquiries. I should be glad to be informed by thee, why our *Roman Political Niblers* had bestowed the Epithet of *Female* on the War thou art about to discuss: I cannot, for my Life, conceive, how our *Virtuosos* could take it into their Heads to Impute to the fair Sex, a War that has been carried on with such *Male* Fury and Destruction.

Marf. If we view the late War in a certain immediate Light, we shall be apt to agree with those that impute it to the Caprice and Ambition of the Fairer Part of the Creation; but for my own Part, that have regularly and impartially traced this Matter as far as it will go, I am steadfastly of Opinion, that the War in Question took its Rise solely from *Masculine* Ambition, and Lust of Power.

I will not however deny, but that the Fair have aided in the Support of it; nor will I altogether refuse them their Share of the Glory of putting an End to it.

Those who ignorantly have bestowed the Appellation of *Female* on the late War, argue, that it had owed its Being to the Vanity of a certain great *Queen*, who would inflame the World, that her more peaceable *Sire* might have a Chance, during the general Confusion, of seizing upon real Royalty, and dropping the imaginary *One* he had long possessed with great Self-content and Satisfaction. They tell you further, this Fair Incendiary took to her Aid a neighbouring *Heroine*, famed throughout *Europe*, as well for *Female* Fortitude and

Martial Exploits, as for unbounded Ambition and inordinate Thirst of Power. They strengthen their Argument by asserting, that a certain powerful Northern *Amazon*, jealous of Fame, and thinking her Glory would be eclipsed by the Prowess of the Southern *Ladies*, inspired a certain neighbouring *Dutchess* with the Thoughts of a *Crown*. This last, they say, so effectually wrought on the Easiness of her more inactive *Husband's* Temper, that he became *Competitor* for the *Crown* that had been designed, by his Royal *Daughter*, for the Resigned *Prince* made mention of above. The Contest now, they say, became equal, as to Number, two and two of a Side; but as the *Heroines* of the *South* abounded much more in Wealth, the Sinues of War, than those of the *North*; these last implored the Assistance of a very great Lady, situated between the Contending Parties.

This *Fair One*, whose Transcendent Beauty had long, and still does captivate the Heart of her indulgent *Lord*, persuaded him that the future Settlement and Prosperity of his *Daughters*, depended on his making a right Use of the *Female* Contention already set on Foot. He took the sage Advice of his *Minerva* in support of the Northern *Lasses*. The Match was now become unequal, as to Numbers at least, and therefore it was judged Necessary by the *Southerns*, to call in a *Third* to their Aid: They fixed their Eyes on a certain *German* Princess, married to an *Italian* Prince, possessed of narrow Hereditary Dominions, and a late acquired empty Title. This easy, good-natured *Princess*, who is now no more, buoyed up with the Hopes of large, rich, additional *Dominions* and substantial *Titles*, was easily gained upon to persuade the Gallant *Partner* of her Bed, to join and head his Forces in Behalf of injured

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Merit. Her Solicitations were Successful, and here again the Contest, as to Numbers, became equal a second Time; but superior Wealth and Force was still on the Side of the Southern Fair.

To remedy this Evil, the *Amazons* of the North earnestly besought the Aid of a great Lady in the *West*, Wealthy and Powerful, both by Sea and Land. There had been formerly a very good Understanding and great Intimacy between them and Her, and they hoped that the Change of her Fortune would have made no Alteration in her Friendship; they were acquainted with her unlimited Power she exercised over her *L—d*, and did not doubt she might, if she pleased, engage him to espouse their Quarrel. They made it appear to her, to a Demonstration, that their Interest and her own were inseparable, and that their Destruction would bring certain Ruin upon her own Family.

The Southern *Ladies*, on the other Hand, were not wanting in their Importunities with the Powerful Heroine of the *West*. They represented to her, that as she was intirely unconcerned in the Cause of the War, she was bound in Justice not to become a Party; that for their Parts, all they required at her Hands, was an exact *Neutrality*; but gave her to understand withal, that they would let fall the whole Weight of their Power upon Her and Hers, if she supported either avowedly or otherwise, the *Ladies* in Arms against them. Now, whither the wealthy *Western Lady* was intimidated on one Hand, or was of Opinion on the other, that she might more *usefully* employ her Time and her Talents in Time of *Peace*, than that of War and Confusion, I cannot say; but certain it is, that she stood with her Hands across all the Time the Female Contest lasted. It is

thought, I know, by some, that she must have been obliged to take Share in the Quarrel, if it had lasted another Year. But I own myself, to be of a different Opinion, for Reasons I may hereafter explain to thee, *Pasquin*. The same *Motives* which had withheld Her from Aiding her old *Friends* in the Beginning, would, in all Likelihood, withhold Her to the End; for as the *Fair* are more beautiful than the other Sex, so are they known to be much more fixed and *determined* in the Pursuit of certain Favourite *Objects*.

Thus, *Pasquin*, do those superficial *Speculatists*, who have distinguished the late, by the Name of *Female War*, endeavour to justify themselves; but in my Opinion, they have mistaken the whole Matter, and falsely impute to *Female* Ambitious Practices, what I hope to be able to shew thee to have been founded on the most refined Politicks of the other more dangerous and more designing Sex.

The Princes of *Europe* being justly alarmed at the growing formidable Power of *France*, had long mediated a strict Union amongst themselves, in order to curb the Haughtiness of *Louis XIV.* who had made large Strides towards Universal Monarchy: But as Numbers seldom are known to unite, so as to act with Vigour, it was some time before this necessary Alliance could be perfectly Cemented. Nor do I think it could ever have been brought about, had not Chance, more than any Thing else, seated *William* Prince of *Orange*, on the *British* Throne in 1688. I shall not enter into the Merits of that great Revolution; nor say what I may think concerning the Justice or Injustice of it; nor shall I, in this Place, commend or disapprove of the Means by which that Chance was brought about; I shall leave this Task to those more immediately concerned in the Consequences of it.

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But I will say, that King *William's* natural Aversion to the Person of *Louis XIV.* was the Foundation and Support of the two great Alliances formed against *France* in 1689 and 1701. For though the War of 1702 had been carried on by *William's* Successor, it is certain, the *Basis* of it had been laid by Him.

King *William*, though born a Subject, had a Soul ambitious, and fitted for Empires and great Actions; War was his Delight, and the Attempts of *Louis XIV.* upon his native Country, furnished him with Opportunities of gratifying his Favourite Passion. His Thirst of Martial Glory continued upon him after the Confusions of his Country ceased, which the wiser Part of his Countrymen perceiving, they projected a Method of gratifying him without much Expence to his Parent Soil. The Distractions which *Liberty* had wrought in *Britain*, about that time, paved the Way, and gave the *Dutch* an Opportunity of shifting the Burthen from themselves, and saddling it upon their Neighbours. These last received the *Delivery* with open Arms, and willingly embraced the Alternatives of Wars, Want, Taxes, and loss of Trade, for Peace and plenty; imagining, without Doubt, to have precious *Freedom* thrown into the Bargain, as an equivalent. But, my *Pasquin*, here the *Britons* were

Well, the *Dutch* had parted with their Martial Subject; the *Britons* had Possession of him and of the Liberty imported along with him, and ever since took into their Heads to lead *France* a weary Life. It fell out, however, that their Enmity to *France* proved of singular Advantage to her; for this new *Monarch* was constantly as unsuccessful in the Field, as he was outwitted in the Cabinet. His

Engagements with the *French* Forces in the Wars of 1672 and 1689, confirm the one, and the Treaty of Partition proves the other to a Demonstration. But what signify, my good old Friend, Losses and National Disadvantages, when a People think, they enjoy fair *Liberty* in Exchange ; the Blessing cannot be purchased at too dear a Rate.

The *Britons* were taught the Art of War ; they were inspired with Love of Danger, with Neglect of Industry, and with the same Aversion to *Louis XIV.* with which their great Leader was born. They gave into all the Views of their Prince, and most willingly sacrificed their Lives and Fortunes in the Maintenance of the *Freedom* he had rescued, and to curb their *Gallick* Enemy. *Louis*, though seconded by Fortune, in his Encounters with this Nation of *Heroes*, yet as he found them bent upon his Downfall, and determined to hazard their *All* in their Attempt, he wisely gave them a *Truce*, for a Peace it cannot be called, that they might have the greater Leisure to enter into themselves, and coolly distinguish between their real and imaginary *Interest*. For, whatever Views *Louis* had on the Dominions of some of his Neighbours on the Continent, he had none to the immediate Disadvantage of *Britain* : He had real good Wishes for her Sons, and however greatly disgusted he had been at her Monarch, for his avowed Aversion to him, yet he had no Intention of chastizing the People any farther than prudential Self-security required it. But the Blood of *Britain* had been artfully put into a Ferment, and there was no persuading her *Heroes* that the Truce or Peace of *Ryswick* had been founded on the Courtesy and good Nature of their *French* Neighbour.

Louis saw with Regret, the growing Inveteracy of these *Islanders*, and was willing to Arm himself against

against the Fury of a People that panted for an Opportunity of falling upon his Skirts. He foresaw that a Nation rather grown desperate than wise by Experience, would spend every Ragg of their Wealth to put him down; therefore prudently set about strengthening himself against the Day of Danger. And as Treasure was like to be his best Support against the Attacks of a People grown wanton with the Blessings of Wealth and Peace, for the War of 1689 had not quite emptied their Purses, he resolved to make himself Master of the Mines of *Mexico* and *Peru*. He had, indeed, the best Right to them of any Man living, after the Death of the Prince in Possession, who happened, about that time, to be in a very declining State of Health. But being sensible that his Title, just as it was, would meet with Universal Opposition, he resolved, if possible, to compass that by Art and Stratagem, which it would be Difficult to attain by open Force and Violence.

It must be owned, *Pasquin*, that *Louis* was a great Adept in the Art of Dissimulation, and that no Man of his Time, knew better than himself, how to make Court to the Passions of his Contemporaries. The Britons were to be laid asleep before he could think of putting his great Design in Execution; but how to bring the Lethargy upon a bold, watchful, jealous, revengeful People, was the Difficulty. A Lucky Incident, however, soon removed the Intricacies *Louis* had formed to himself. It was this:

A Dutchman, in the highest Favour with King *William*, was honoured with an Embassy to *France* on the Conclusion of the Treaty of *Ryswick*. His Indulgent Master's Coffers were open to this Mission, and his Appearance at the French Court was

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as splendid and sumptuous, as his Master was kind and liberal to him. *Louis*, who was no Stranger to the *Hollander's* Ascendant over his Master, shewed him uncommon Honours, and played so effectually upon his *Passions*, that he soon moulded him to his Interest. Here were the first Stones of the famous *Partition Treaty* laid in *Golden Sand*. The *Tinsel* Fabrick was soon after brought to Perfection with the Concurrence of a few *Britons* only; that probably had been *Practiced* upon by *Louis*, as the caressed Ambassador had been at *Versailles* before.

It was stipulated, that the Treaty should be a Secret till after the Death of *Charles II.* of *Spain*; but Secresy would not answer the Purposes of the *French* Court. It was no sooner ratified than it was produced to the languishing Monarch, who, enraged, that those he had taken into his *Bosome*, had taken upon them to sever and dispose of his Estate without his Privity and Consent, determined to bequeath his Monarchy, whole and intire, to his next of *Kin*.

King *William*, conscious of his Mistake, moves Heaven and Earth to be Revenged of *Louis*, who in reality, merited his Resentment much less than his own *Dutch* Favourite who had led him into the *Snare*; and yet this *Minion* was untouched, and as much a Favourite after as before. This shews thee, *my Pasquin*, that Princes have their *Foibles* as well as other Men. The Blood of *Britain* is now to be spilt, her Treasures to be exhausted, and her Industry to be depressed, to rectify Mistakes owing to the *Influence*, and not unlikely, to the *Corruption* of one Favourite Minister. But such has been her *Fate* more than once.

Upon the Demise of *Charles II.* a Grandchild of *France* took Possession of the *Spanish* Monarchy;
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King *William* was determined he should not keep it, and for that Purpose, formed the best and greatest Alliance that we read of in History; but he did not live to see the happy Effects of his Labours. His Successor, Queen *Anne*, went in with the Inclinations of her People, who had learnt to treat the Person and dread the Power of *Louis XIV.* The old Gentleman was torne to Pieces, and no wonder he should, for he had all the potent Princes of *Europe* upon his Back at once; an unequal Match you will say, *Pasquin*; but a Second Turn in the Councils of *Britain* brings *Louis* Comfort and Relief, when he had least Reason to hope for either.

The Enemies of *Louis* and Peace have imputed to *British* Corruption this happy Change in his Favour; but for my Part, I ascribe that great Event to solid Wisdom and untainted Patriotism. Why might not the *British* Carvers of the Peace of *Utrecht* be allowed to think that the Prejudice they had been inspired with against *Louis*, was unjust in itself, and disadvantageous in its Consequences; that it was high Time to put a stop to the Effusion of Christian Blood, which had been profusely and wantonly spilt for above twenty Years together, more to gratify the Passions of *Certain Persons*, than from real Necessity? That they had been enriching other Nations with the Spoils of the War all the Time they were impoverishing their own: That War and Conquests were not the Interest nor Business of a People subsisting by Trade and Industry; and that the late insipid Notions concerning *Ballancing*, was destructive of the *Woollen Manufactures*, the Springs of their National Wealth? I say, *Pasquin*, the latter Ministers of Queen *Anne's* Reign, seem to me to have acted like Patriots, and Men of Sense, for
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having extricated their Bleeding Country from Difficulties and Calamities unnecessarily brought upon her: Nor could I ever find, and Secrets of this kind seldom have escaped me, that the first Authors of the Peace of *Utrecht* had been gained or tainted by the Gold of old *Louis*.

I do agree, that *Self-preservation* had no small Share in the Transactions of those Times: But thou knowest, my good old Friend, that the Doctrine of Self-Interest and Preservation had been long, as it still is, more assiduously studied and cultivated by the *Ministers* of that Island, than all others: Therefore, the most that can be expected from *British* Agents, is to blend a little the *Publick Weal* with *Private Interest*, as was the Case in the Instance now before us. But this very seldom happens.

Louis and *Europe* were once again at Peace; his Grand-child was left in Possession of *Spain* and the *Indies*; *Sicily* was bestow'd on the Duke of *Savoy*, a useful Member of the Grand Alliance; and the Remainder of the old *Spanish* Dominions were put into the Hands of the *Austrian* Family. One would think, *Pasquin*, that all the Powers concern'd in these Transactions would have been contented, and that general Peace and Concord would have long continued. But the Deaths of Queen *Anne* and *Louis XIV.* which followed upon the Heels of the Peace of *Utrecht*, were attended with new Measures, and quite a different System of Politicks, than had been hitherto generally practised in *Europe*. I say, generally, because *France* had, at all Times, particularly since the Ministry of *Richlieu*, observed and continued it with Success.

A new Family succeeded to the Crown of *Britain*, in Virtue of an Act projected by King *William*,

William, who was willing to perpetuate his own *Memory*, and the precious *Liberty* he had rescued from the Jaws of Tyranny, amongst a People that had implicitly supported him in his favourite *Views*, without much Enquiry or Examination. The Duke of *Orleans*, a second *Richlieu*, had the *French* Helm intrusted to his Care during the Minority of the present King, who was then scarcely six Years old. The new *British* Ministry, who were of a different Kidney from those that had immediately preceded them, struck out a new Political Path unknown to their Nation since the Revolution. It is true, the Pretensions of the Duke of *Orleans* to the Crown of *France*, in Virtue of the Treaty of *Utrecht*, was a colourable Excuse for their going out of the old Road; and had they prudently kept in View of it, might have been safe; but by trusting too far to *French* Friendship and *Self-sufficiency*, they were sadly bewilder'd.

France had long practised with Success, a General *Negotiation*; why might not *Britain* try an Experiment that had throve so well with her Neighbour? The *Regent* of *France* was her Friend by Interest and Inclination; he would readily let her into all the Mysteries of the Art, and would stand by and support her, should she happen to make a false Step. This, or much to this Purpose, was the Language of the *British* Ministry towards the Middle of the Year 1715. This *Wise* Resolution was no sooner taken, but the *Regent* was courted and caressed: He was taken into the Bosoms of his new *Pupils*, let into their Schemes and Secrets, and had the chief *Intendancy* of all the *British* Affairs put into his *Sincere*, unerring Hands.

The *Gallick Machiaval*, who knew he had to deal with a jealous unsteady People, was willing to
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give them Proofs of his Friendship, in order to confirm his new founded Authority over them; but he was too much in the Interest of his Country, to feed them with any thing but *whipped Cream*, which he artfully imposed upon these new fangled *Politicians*, for substantial Food.

About this time Rebellion and Discontent reared their Heads in *Britain*, and threatned the Ruin of the Foreign Family upon the Throne. The Assistance of *France* was equally courted by the Prince and his Rebellious Subjects: Here was a glorious Opportunity for the *Regent* of perpetuating the *Influence* he had just acquired. He improves it, and by conniving only at the Rebellion, without giving it any open Support, permitted it to take Root, and fixed himself in the good Graces of the Court. The *British* Ministry took the Impartiality of the *Regent* on this Occasion, for an Effect of his Friendship, when in Reality, it was that of his Prudence; for he was wise enough to see, that should he have aided the Rebels according to his Inclination, he would have soon had the whole Force of the late Grand Alliance upon his Country, groaning under the Pressure of a Minority, and an exorbitant National-Debt.

The Rebellion was crushed more by Chance and Discord, than by Valour or good Conduct of either Ministers or Commanders. The *Regent* saw with Concern, the Peace of *Britain* restored; but without endangering the very Foundation of the Monarchy under his Care, he could not prevent it. However, though his Neighbour was quiet at Home, he was resolved she should not be so Abroad. The Wars between *Sweden* and *Muscovy* furnished him with an Opportunity of exercising both his Power and his Talents. He inspires *Britain* with Jealousies of the Heroick King of *Sweden's* Intentions

tions in favour of the *Competitor* to her Crown and her *Prince*, with a Desire of making a *Purchase* contiguous to his Hereditary Dominions. The artful Insinuations were greedily swallowed, and soon after the *Baltick* was covered with the floating Force of *Britain*. The *Muscovite* and *Danish* Coasts were guarded against the *Impotent* Power of *Sweden*, whilst the Merchant Ships of *Britain* were unguarded and exposed to the *Depredations* of *Swedish* Corsairs, even whilst her *Maritime* Power lorded it in that narrow Sea. But this was not the only Instance of the Neglect of the *British* Admirals, or their superior M—rs, in regard to the Commerce of their Country.

The fortuitous, or contrived untimely Death of *Charles XII.* gave a new Turn to the Affairs of the *North*. *Peter* the Great, was now become more terrible to *Britain* than ever *Charles* had been; and the new King of *Sweden*, a *German* Prince, was to be maintained and supported, not only against the Weight of the *Czar's* Power, but also against the Machinations of the virtuous few that wished well to the lawful *Heir* to the Crown of *Sweden*. The *British* Fleets appear a second time in the *Baltick*, and the *Maritime* Force of *Russia* is blocked up in her Harbours, one would think, purposely to oblige her to change her ancient *British* Clothiers for those of *Prussia*.

Thus far Matters succeeded to the Regent's Wish; he found Means to keep his new *Pupils* in hot Water, in order to increase their *Debts* and lessen their *Trade*, whilst he himself was studiously employed in contriving Means for the Discharge of his own, and the Improvement of Commerce. Now he begins to try another Experiment for the same Purposes.

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I have told thee, *Pasquin*, that the *Britons* in the new Administration, longed to try their Force at a Continued *Negotiation*. The *Regent* observed the *Contagion* strong upon them, and was for entering them fairly before they should see their Error. For this Purpose then, did he send over to them *Du Bois*, the fittest Servant for such a Master as ever took *Petticoat* or *Pen* in Hand. But before he was set out, he took care to ingratiate himself more particularly, to the Ruling *Britons*, by obtaining new Favours for them from his indulgent Master. This mighty Boon was *Narrowing* the new Sluice of *Mardike* from 40 to 17 Foot, the Foundation of the wider Works still subsisting, and the Harbour still in *Statu quo*.—Gods, how caressed, how adored, was the Bearer of this precious *Present*; how triumphant were the *Negotiators* at their Success in the very first Essay they made in the mysterious Art! To *Negotiating* then went *Du Bois* and the *Britons*, till the *Latter* negotiated themselves out of Breath, and some of their best *Friends* into a Coolness towards them.

The Duke of *Savoy* had been a sore Thorn in the Side of *France* during her Contentions with the Grand Alliance, therefore he was to be weaned, if possible, from his Attachment, by forcing the Exchange of *Sardinia* upon him for the fertile Island of *Sicily*. The *Regent* had two main Points in view when he projected the Exchange, and engaged *Britain* to insist upon it; for without her zealous Concurrence with him, the thing would be impracticable. The first was, to alienate the Duke from his old *Friends* by the most compulsive Injustice: The other, to induce the Emperor to agree that a Road should be opened into *Italy* to a Prince of the House of *Bourbon*. Thus came the Eventual Succession of *Don Carlos* to *Parma* and *Tuscany*

Tuscany to be settled and agreed to by the Emperor, whose Interest it would have been to prevent it, if he had not accepted of *Sicily* as a sort of Equivalent, to save his Honour. For finding he was to be forced into a Concession, he chose to agree with a good Grace, rather than proclaim his own Weakness, or the Perfidy of *those* he was unwilling to break with.

The *Regent* having gained these Points, persuaded himself he might draw his *Pupils* into any Measures however absurd and inconsistent with the Interest of their Country. He was not mistaken, for about this Time, he artfully inspired the Court of *Spain*, swayed by *Female* and *Priestly* Ambition, to invade the Emperor's *Italian* Dominions; and as he had long projected the *Impoverishment* of his new Ally, *Britain* was taught to commit the most unheard-of Outrage on the Maritime Force of *Spain*, that this last might be drove to a Necessity of breaking through a Chain of Commerce that had subsisted for Ages between the two Nations.—This was a Master-stroke, and had its full Effect; for although *Britain* benefited more by her Trade with *Spain* than with all the rest of *Europe*, yet had she, by that one precipitate Blow, drawn upon herself the Hatred and Resentment of the whole *Spanish* Nation.

Now again, the *Regent* tries the Weight of his Influence, and persuades his *Wards* to atone for the Injury done to *Spain*. They, it is true, came into this Expedient, which was to restore *Gibraltar*, with some Difficulty; but the dictating Ally was not to be trifled with; so that to gratify him, a formal Promise of *Restitution* was made.—I am apt to think the Promise was made with an Intention not to be kept, and that the *Regent* was no Stranger to the Difficulties that would attend the Perform-

ance of it; but he was willing to create a *Claim* that should be attended with much Perplexity, extravagant Expence, and loss of Trade.

These Broils occasioned a new Scene of Negotiation, in which *Britain* thought to retrieve her Mistakes; but she had already put herself too far into the Power of *France*. In the midst of this Negotiating *Chain*, the *Regent* died suddenly; but he had chalked out his Political Plan so clearly, and laid so good a Foundation, that his Successors in the *French* Cabinet, had little else to do, but to steer by the Lights he had fixed with much Art and Labour. He had bred Dissention between most of the Members of the old *Grand Alliance*; he had almost destroyed all the Purposes of the Treaty of *Utrecht*; he had opened a Gap for the Inroad of his *House* into *Italy*; he had eased his own Country of her Debts and Taxes, whilst he negotiated his *Neighbour* into a Continuance, and even an Increase of hers; and he nourished up the Commerce of *France*, whilst he influenced a new Ally to starve her Trade to Death.

The Unthinking would have it, that the Duke of *Orleans* acted in Consequence of the Title he had to the Crown, in virtue of King *Philip's* Renunciation; but believe it from me, *Pasquin*, that wise Prince had never entertained a serious Thought of the Crown. He was too well acquainted with the Genius of the *French*, to imagine that they would be wrought upon, or forced to alter the Lawful Course of the *Succession*. But it was for his Purpose to persuade his neighbouring *Ally*, that he intended to assert the Right she had procured for him, in order to lure her into those Measures that should, one Day, raise his ambitious *House* beyond the Reach of Envy and the Power of her Enemies. The *Emperor*, the Duke
of

of *Savoy*, and the *Dutch*, saw into his Drift, and kindly warned *Britain* of the *Shelves* she was craftily influenced to steer upon: But friendly Advice had no Effect upon a People that would not or could not see the Danger. Nay, so arrogantly wilful were they, or so blind, that they could not be prevailed upon to alter their Measures, even after the Death of that Prince, whose Title, frivolous as it was, had given some Colour to their Conduct for seven Years before.

An Alteration in the Conduct of *Britain* was now looked upon as inevitable, by all those that had mourned for her during the Influence of the Duke of *Orleans*; but they were mistaken, for the new *British Minister* was not to be persuaded to swerve from the Maxims of his Predecessor, unwilling, I will suppose, to disoblige the only Court in *Europe* able to support him, in Case of Necessity and *Disgrace*. The Ministers of *Britain*, my good old Friend, have been famed, at all Times, for prudently distinguishing between Private and Publick Interest, and have seldom been known to sacrifice the First to the Latter.

The Court of *France* went on in the Path that had been traced out by the late *Regent*, and that of *Britain* permitted herself to be still led on as she had been. The Trade of Negotiation went on, till by Treaty after Treaty, and by Slight after Slight, the *Emperor* and *Spain* threw themselves into each others Arms, without the Privity of *Britain* at least; however, the Transaction might have been so secret to *France*, whose sole View was, from the very Beginning, to create Diffidence and Jealousy between *Britain* and that Natural Ally.

This sudden unforeseen Union between *Spain* and the *Emperor*, which should have afforded

Britain the greatest Pleasure, as it would have been a Means of disuniting the House of *Bourbon*, was seen in quite a different Light by the *British* Solomons. They were taught by their artful *Tutors*, to believe that their Religion, their Liberties, and their Commerce were now exposed to most imminent Danger, and that there were *Secret Articles* in the New Treaty, which struck directly at the very Foundation of their Government and Constitution. They, the *British* Sages, swallowed the Bait; they take the Alarm, and move Heaven and Earth to guard against the imaginary Evil, and be revenged of the Contracting Parties.

In vain did the *Emperor* justify his Innocence; all his Allegations were looked upon as so many Falshoods and Snares: His *Ministers* were banished, his *Fortresses* were threatened; the Ships of his Subjects were spoiled, and in short, he was to be brought down at least, if not quite ruined and mangled. For these Purposes was the memorable Treaty of *Hanover* projected; for these Purposes also were three formidable *Armado's* sent out to the *North*, *South*, and *West*, besides a strong Squadron kept at home, to guard the Coast. But even all those Precautions were not thought sufficient to prevent the Designs of the *Emperor*, who, by the by, was not Master of one single Ship of Force; a numerous Land Force was raised, to guard the *British* Coast from a Descent from *Ostend*.

Pasq. I very well remember, *Marforio*, the *Eclat* of the *British* Armaments in the Year 1726; but till now, I did not understand that they had been solely directed against *Spain* and the *Emperor*. I thought all the Princes of *Europe* had been leagued against *Britain*, and that she had been at that time making her dernier *Effort* for the Preservation of her Liberty. Pray tell me, by what Means she
came

came afterwards to recover her *Senses*, and to get rid of her *Pannick*?

Marf. I will tell thee, *Pasquin*, after *France* had led her into an Expence of near 30 Millions of Crowns, in which, to be sure, the *British* M — r found his Account; after she had suffered at least as much more by Depredations and other Obstructions to her Commerce, and after the *Emperor* had been effectually cooled in his Friendship for her; I say, after all these things had been brought about, *France* vouchsafed to undeceive her, by informing her, that there were never any such frightful *Secret Articles* in Being, as she had imagined without any real Ground or Foundation.— Thus, *Pasquin*, went out in Smoak, a Fire which threatened the Repose of all *Europe*: The Flames did not reach farther than *Britain* herself, who indeed was not quite burnt in them, tho' her Wings were most miserably singed, which was all *France* had in View, when she laid the Train, and put the Match into her frightened Neighbour's Hand.

Britain was now sensible of her Error, but thou shalt find presently she was not become one whit the wiser; for after all this *expensive* Bustle, she was a second time induced by her favourite *Ally*, to knock under to *Spain*. The *Spaniards*, thou knowest *Pasquin*, are a tenacious haughty People; they were not contented with bare Remorse, they must have substantial Proofs of the Repentance and proffered Friendship of their late Enemy. *Britain* was taught to oblige them in their own uncouth Way, and on their own Terms.

A Treaty, which will be as famous in after Ages as it is at present, was concluded at *Seville*, between *Spain* and *Britain* in 1729, by which the Eventual Succession of *Don Carlos* was ascertained a new, and guarantied; and that the fickle *Fitt*

should not again seize one of the Contracting Parties, it was stipulated, that the Infant Prince should be immediately transported to his new Dominions, by Part of that formidable Armado, which had lately threatned the Destruction of his native Country. It is true, the Royal Stripling took another Road to Italy, whether out of Distrust or otherwise it matters not; but his Troops and Equipage were convoyed by the new allied Tritons.

Thou perhaps, mayst think, Pasquin, that Britain who was to reap no other Advantage from this last Treaty, than bare Reconciliation, had done as much as could be well expected from her; but thou must know, that France had taught her younger Branch never to be satisfied. Thus instructed then, Spain insists a new on the Performance of former Promises, and however industriously the great Secret has been hitherto preserved, I will tell thee, that by a secret Article in this very Seville Treaty, G——*

* * * * *

I am satisfied, this solemn Stipulation was not intended to be performed, any more than less binding Engagements had been seven years before; not that I imagine the British Minister would hesitate one Moment to purchase solid Peace, during his own Influence, at this or any other Expence; but because I do not think he will venture to exasperate his Fellow Subjects more than they are already. If they had tamely acquiesced in one of his late Projects, which I am apt to believe was thrown out purposely to see how much they would bear, I am of Opinion, he would have brought the Secret Article to light long before that Time; but as he miscarried in that, I cannot think he will venture on this; though I can tell him, without the Gift of Prophecy, that his Country will never be at rest, till she has kept her Faith more religiously than

than some of her Neighbours say she has done for the Time past. But as I shall have Occasion in my next Conference with you, *Pasquin*, to consider this Matter more particularly, I shall for the present take my Leave of thee, for *Aurora* already displays her Charms. Good Morning.



DIALOGUE III.

Pasq. **W**ELCOME, my dear *Marforio*, to thy impatient old Acquaintance, thou hast raised my Curiosity to the highest Pitch, and art come most importunately to give it Satisfaction. I have naturally weighed thy Introduction to the late War, and can perceive without any Difficulty, that the artful Practices of the late Duke of *Orleans* on his unwise Neighbours, had paved the Way for the late Confusions on the Continent; but I cannot so readily bring myself to think, that the Transactions, antecedent to the Death of *Louis XIV* mentioned in the first Part of thy Narrative, have been in any Shape, productive of them. Therefore, my good old Friend be pleased to clear up that Matter a little more to my Satisfaction.

Marf. We ought not, *Pasquin*, to confine our selves to immediate Objects in Political Researches; we must often seek for remote Causes, if we would arrive at a true Knowledge of the grand Mystery of Publick Affairs. Most, or rather all the natural Calamities, that have happened in the World, were owing to an Inobservation of this first Political Maxim. It is true, the *Britons*

of the latter Part of the last Century, cannot be said to have had any immediate Hand in the Transactions of the present Age; but will any Man say therefore, that they had not, at this Time, laid the Foundation for all those expensive Imp — Measures, which their Successors had unweariedly pursued to this? Can it be said, that *France* had not the *Spanish* Monarchy in view, when she gave *Europe* Peace at *Ryswick*, and that the *Partition* Treaty which was a Consequence of that Peace, had not secured that Monarchy to *France*, which in all human Probability had never happened, if the War of 1689 had never been? Can it be denied, that the ensuing War of 1702 was founded on the Measures antecedent to it, and that the Treaty of *Utrecht*, which put an End to it, had created that Title to the Crown of *France*, which the late *Regent* had so successfully improv'd to the Disadvantage of his credulous *Neighbours*? Will it not be allowed, that the very *Regency* of that artful Prince had been owing to those Measures that had raised him to the Rank of first Prince of the Blood, by the Exclusion of *Philip* of *Anjou*, who might probably have remained in *France*, if the Conduct of certain *States* had not drove *Charles II.* of *Spain*, to constitute him his universal Heir? May it not be affirmed again, that the late Engagements between *France* and *B —*, which you yourself have allowed to have been partly productive of the late Invasions of that Crown to have been owing to certain Measures of the last Age, which created a Sort of Parity between the Title of the *Regent*, and that of another certain Royal Family?

Consider, *Pasquin*, with one Attention, what I had said in my last Conversation, and I doubt not thou wilt agree with me, that the *Seeds*, at least, of the late *Confusion* had been sown in the last Century.

I will

I will not deny but that the Mistakes of the last Age might have been partly corrected in this, had the Management of Publick Affairs fallen into skilful, virtuous Hands ; nor do I think it improbable, but that the very first *Authors* themselves, of the Errors complained of, had they outlived *Louis XIV.* would have changed Hands, and endeavoured to undo all their own once-boasted *Handy-work* : But they were mostly cut off, or out of Power before the fatal Day of Reckoning came. The Direction of Affairs fell into the Hands of Men of a different Complexion, who like their Predecessors indeed, saw not an Inch into Futurity ; but who, very unlike those, acted upon Self-preserving, Self-interested *Principles*, without a Mixture of one Grain of either Honour or Honesty. I am inclined to believe that the first acted upon a Principle they thought just and necessary ; tho' Numbers differed from them in Sentiment : But I cannot persuade myself to have the like charitable Opinion of their *Successors*, who had infallible *Experience* for their Guide.

I shall now, *Pasquin*, proceed in my intended Discussion of the true Springs that set the late War in Motion, upon a Presumption that what I had now said has solved thy Scruples, concerning the first Part of my last Discourse.

In vain, *Pasquin*, have the Partisans of *France* endeavoured to deceive the World, by imputing the late War, and all its mischievous Operations to the Opposition given to *Stanislaus's* Election to the Crown of *Poland* : They might, indeed, think to impose on the Credulous and Unskilful, but could never hope to succeed with the Wise and Observing. The Election of *Poland*, it is true ; gave a Colour for blowing up a Mine, which *France* had been busy in laying for a Series

ries of Years : But if that fortuitous *Firebrand* had not been put into her Hand, she would have seized upon any other as soon as the Measure of her great *Designs* was full. All *Europe*, those alone excepted, who were nearest concerned in the Consequences of her Ambition, were sensible of the Intentions of *France*, and saw with Concern, the daily Increase of her *Influence* over those that should be a Check upon her Insolence. But, what Advantage could the penetrating hope for from the Superiority of their Discernment, when the *Deluded* were grown in Love with their *Chains*, and *Deaf* to all friendly Expostulation ?

I will not directly charge *France* with Views to Universal Monarchy, though she was thought by several judicious Persons, to squint that Way ever since the Days of *Henry IV.* But I am fully persuaded she has been inclined, for more than a Century, as she still is, to make the *Rhine*, from its Source to its Discharge into the the *Maes*, the *Barrier* of her Empire ; and I add, that, she never has had so good a Chance for the Completion of her Views as at this very Time. This will appear more probable to thee, my Friend, than perhaps it does at present, after I shall have gone through my Observations on the presumptive Consequences of the Peace now on the Anvil.

France had at all Times set her Heart upon the Conquest of the *Netherlands*, and had gone more than once very near accomplishing her Design ; But as the united Wealth of *Britain* and *Holland* had been a constant Check upon her, she was determined to lay hold of all Opportunities for severing those Powers, and for damming up the Commercial Channels, that rendered them rich and formidable.

formidable. She had made many bold pushes to this End ; but never had a favourable Opening till the *Regency* of the late Duke of *Orleans*.

That great *Genius* saw himself caressed by a new set of Ministers in *Britain*, as had been already observed, who gave Implicitly to his Views, without strictly examining into the genuine Motives of his Actions, imagining, I will suppose, that his own personal Interest, was abstracted from that of his Country, and that he would embark it on the same Bottom which carried that of their Royal Master. The artful Prince, sensible of the Advantage Fortune had thrown in his Way, carefully improved it, till he had drained them of their Wealth, loaded them with fresh Burthens, stopp'd up the Current of their Industry, and rendered them jealous of their warmest Friends. Jealousy naturally begets Jealousy, as Friendship begets Friendship, and so it happened here ; for as the *Britons* became jealous of their old *Allies* without Cause, the last become cool and indifferent towards them.

The *Dutch* were somewhat more cautious, and reserved towards that enchanting Prince ; but not so guarded, but that he found means to sow the Seed of Discord between them and the *Emperor*, their natural Ally. First, he had inspired them with Apprehensions, that he intended to restore the Commerce of the *Austrian Netherlands*, and that for that Purpose he would strip them of their Barrier, and attempt opening the Navigation of the *Scheld*. They were also taught to believe, that the *East-India* Commerce from *Ostend*, was purposely authorized to pave the Way for the *Emperor's* other more dangerous and extensive Designs upon them.

The *Regent* did not confine his Schemes to the Maritime Powers alone, but practised, and with Success, on several Princes in *Germany*. The King of *Prussia* was bouyed up, on one Hand, with Hopes of succeeding to certain *German* Dominions, which on the other, the Elector *Palatine's* Heir was taught to expect; and both were wrought into an Indifference towards the *Emperor*, as he was represented to be a secret Enemy to both. The Notoriety of the successful Practices of *France*, at the Court of *Munich*, makes it unnecessary to consider that Point minutely. And it is now no Secret, that she had acquired the same Ascendant over the Court of *Dresden*, which in all Likelihood would have continued to this Day, if the *Czarina* had not found Means to destroy it by the more substantial Offer of the Crown of *Poland*. The King of *Sardinia* was successfully tampered with in his turn; but as the Resentment of this Prince has been already accounted for, in my Observations on *Du Bois's* Negotiations at *London*, in 1616, I shall proceed, without farther Animadversion in this Place, on his particular Case.

Thou wilt remember, *Pasquin*, that antecedent to most of the Machinations of *France*, the *Regent* had artfully opened his Road into *Italy*, by securing, as far as Pen and Ink would go, the Eventual Succession of *Don Carlos*, to three of the fairest Provinces in *Italy*. Can any one think the Duke of *Orleans* provided this Reversion purely out of Regard or Compliment to the Queen of *Spain*? Far from it, my good *Pasquin*, he had other Views, besides that of gratifying Female Ambition, and they were partly these: First to create a Misunderstanding between the Maritime Powers and the *Emperor*, who was, in a Manner, bullied by him into
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his Approbation of that great Transaction ; Secondly, to pave his own Way to the Kingdoms of *Naples* and *Sicily*, which he thought much more easily acquired than that of *France*, with all her Cob-web Renunciations ; and, Lastly, that this created Title for a Prince of his House, which he foresaw would be disputed by the *Emperor*, might give a Colour for the War he meditated to make upon him, as soon as he had brought his Schemes to Perfection.

I do not know, *Pasquin*, whether or no thou hast ever heard before, of the late *Regent's* Designs upon *Naples* for his own Family ; but the Matter is now no Secret in *France*, nor was it any to the Imperial Court, even whilst that Prince lived, and had he existed to this Time, you would have seen him King of the *two Sicilies*, at the same Time that *Charles* would have been Monarch of *Lombardy*. This was his Scheme, and he would have executed it, had his great Life been prolonged.

Thou must not wonder, my Friend, that the Duke of *Orleans* had cloathed himself with the *Lamb's Skin*, and appeared fond of pruning the *Olive Tree* all the Time of his Administration ; it was his own private Interest, it was that of his King and Country, to wear the Appearance of Peace and Concord ; without that Mask he could not hope to be able to impose upon his credulous *Neighbours*, nor work his Country out of Poverty, and an exorbitant Debt in Power and Affluence. Besides, he laboured under a *Minority*, which in *France*, more than in any other Kingdoms, ties up the Hands of the Administration. But had that intriguing Prince lived to the Birth of the present *Dauphin*, we should have seen him carrying on another kind of War, than that I am here accounting for.

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The Prince, who succeeded the Duke of Orleans in the French Administration, though much inferior to his great Predecessor in Capacity, had still Sense enough to walk by the Lights that had been carefully fixed up at proper Distances, he could not well go astray ; but as new Ministers are always known to be fond of Novelties, in order I suppose, to raise a Reputation at the Expence of the Deceased or Discarded, this Prince's Agent projected a new Alliance for his Master, at the same Time that he dissolved one, which had been contrived with singular Art and Prudence, by his Predecessor. It must be owned however, that the Exchange was not attended with any ill Consequence to *France* ; but I am of Opinion, that was more than the Projector himself foresaw, though the cleared Heads of *France* might.

I know it has been generally thought, that the Match with *Spain* had been founded on the Duke of Orleans's Private Views ; but I can by no Means agree with the Supercilious in this Particular. I chuse rather to believe, that that Alliance was projected, in order to fix the Queen of *Spain*, an intriguing, determined Princess, in the Interest of *France*, in her mediated great Designs. And for the Exception taken to the Age of the Infanta it will vanish, if it be considered, that she would be as early ripe as the intended Bridegroom, and that till that Time should happen, the Plight and Circumstances of *France* could not well admit of a general expensive War, such as Orleans had in View from the very first Hour of his Administration.

The new Match, taking it in one Light, turned to the Advantage of *France* ; but to view it in another, it did not. It was so far of Benefit to her, as to give a Colour for the late War

and to continue that Influence over some of her *Neighbours*, which, without this Incident, might have been lost with *Orleans*, whose Art and Shadowy Title to the Crown had created it. For its probable, that the *Deluded* would have altered their Measures in respect to *France*, if she had not changed hers in respect to *Spain*, after the Death of him that had wrought them into a Dependence. But on the other Hand, if the *Spanish* Match had subsisted, the Queen of *Spain* would have had no Thoughts of separating her Interest from that of *France*, nor would she have made those sinister, secret *Overtures* to the Court of *Vienna*, which have been so lately and so loudly complained of.

However, the Duke of *Bourbon* might be inclined to fix his own particular Influence, by raising a *Polish* Princess to the Throne of *France*, yet it is certain, that the more discerning and faithful *French* Ministers persuaded the young King to discard him, in order to facilitate a Reconciliation with *Spain*, that the two Kingdoms might be as united, as it was necessary for the mutual Interest of both, they should be, in order to raise the Lustre of the *Bourbon* Family, on the Ruins of her *Neighbours*.

The Duke was discharged with some signs of Ignominy, as necessary to pave the Way for the Friendship of *Spain*, and a pacifick, good-natured old Priest was taken into his Post. This Alteration in the *French* Ministry had a double good Effect; it produced a warm Harmony with *Spain*, and certain obsequious Dependents on *France* were detained in their *Subservency* by it, as well from a personal Confidence in the Cardinal, as from an erroneous Opinion they had formed to themselves, that no Advantage would induce him to disturb
that

that Tranquility, and publick Repose he so much seemed to set his Heart upon. —

In this Manner, *Pasquin*, were the unwary continued in their Delusion, and every seeming Alteration in the Measures of *France*, rivetted but the faster the Fetters the Duke of *Orleans* had cunningly forged out, during his Influence.

The Day was now drawing near, on which the *French Mask* was to be taken off. The King was grown up, he was blessed with Issue, his Coffers were full, his Finances in good Plight, and his Country rich and out of Debt. But upon what Pretence to throw off the Disguise, was the Question; to fall upon the *Netherlands*, or the *Empire* without a colourable Excuse, might create *France* too many Enemies, at one and the same Time, and might be a Means of clearing up the Eyes of those, that had long been troubled with the Political *Gutta Serena*. It was no Matter where the Scene began; provided the destructive *Dramma* could be introduced with a good Grace.

After the Pulses of *Spain* and *Sardinia* were effectually felt, it was agreed to open the hostile *Interlude* on the Banks of the *Po*, a Spot of Ground judged to be as indifferent to the Maritime Powers, as it was distant from them. For this Purpose were the *British* Ministers hurried into the Treaty of *Seville*; for this End were they taught to purchase the Friendship of *Spain*, by agreeing, that *Don Carlos* should be introduced to his new Dominions, before any Compensation was made for her injurious *Depredations*. In this View was the *Infant Duke*, on his Arrival in *Italy*, taught, first to assume the Title of *Grand Prince* of *Tuscany*, without the Consent of his Feodal Lord, and next to set up an illegal Title to certain Islands and Districts of Land, that had
always

always been annexed to the Duchy of *Milan*. To this End also was the Infant Duke of *Parma* directed to sue for a Dispensation, on the Score of his Nonage, and to threaten to act with it, in case of Refusal.

In the like View was the King of *Sardinia* inspired with Jealousy and Dissatisfaction, and pushed on to make peremptory Demands of *Investitures*, which his Predecessors had over-look'd for two Ages before: In short, there was no Stone left unturn'd, no Means left untry'd, for provoking the *Emperor* to become the Aggressor, in order to gain a Gloss to the Tragedy which *France* had before intended to act.

But whilst that intriguing *Crown* was thus employing all her Arts to pick a Quarrel with the *Emperor*, by the Means of *Spain* and *Sardinia*, *Augustus II.* of *Poland* died. This unhappy Incident furnished *France* with a more colourable Pretext for taking up the Sword, than any she had yet projected: She greedily laid hold of the long wished-for Opportunity, and openly avows the Interest of *Stanislaus*, as Candidate for the *Polish* Crown, notwithstanding she was sensible he had been incapacitated by the Laws of his Country, and that his Election would be opposed by the whole Power of *Russia*.

But the Election of *Stanislaus*, allied as he was to *France*, was no otherwise regarded by that Crown, than as it furnished her with a Pretext of arming and falling, like a Torrent, on his unprovided Imperial Majesty, who had interfered as little, and perhaps less, in the Election of *Poland*, than one of the Maritime Powers.

The Dilatariness of *France*, in her Succours to the Candidate and her Supineness and Inactivity during all the Confusions of *Poland*, prove to a

Demonstration, that she made a Handle only of that Election, for executing her *Designs* nearer home. It must be admitted, indeed, that she laid out her Treasure very freely in the *North*, before the Election ; but was it not absolutely necessary she should do so, in order to secure an Election which must give a Colour to that *Blow* she intended to give ? We found her an OEconomist as soon as her Candidate was chosen by a Majority of her *Votaries* ; whereas, if she had really intended to support the Election, she would have continued at least her Expende, if not increased it. But as the genuine Intentions of *France*, in Regard to the Election of *Poland*, are now so universally known, it would be mis-employing thy Time and my own, *Pasquin*, to enter more minutely into the Matter at present. Her perfidious Behaviour towards the *Dantzickers*, confirms all that can be suggested to her Disadvantage, concerning her farfical false Attack in the *North*.

Pasq. I am extremely obliged to thee *Marforio*, for the Trouble thou hast taken to gratify my Curiosity, in relation to the late War ; But tho' thou hast given me intire Satisfaction as to the Origin of the late Confusions, and have convinced me, that they have been concerted long before the Death of *Augustus I.* yet I cannot say, that thou hast been equally clear as to the Reason that had induced most of the great Powers of *Europe*, to look on, whilst *France* and her *Allies* were *Worrying* the forlorn *Emperor*, both on the *Rhine* and in *Italy*. Thou hast indeed let me into those *Machinations* of *France*, that had lulled her most dangerous *Neighbours* into a Political *Lithargy*, whilst she was laying the Mine ; but I would be informed by what Means she was able to *charm* them after her *Designs* became obvious and notorious.

Marf.

Marf. The Charm, *Pasquin*, had a three-fold Mixture in it. It was a Composition made up of *Necessity*, *Private Self-Interest*, and *Want of Judgment*, gilded over with Art and Dissimulation. And, though I had already explained myself in the general, concerning the Nature of the Soporifick *Dose*, I shall now, for thy Satisfaction, consider it more particularly.

To begin then with the first Ingredient, *Necessity*. Thou cannot forget, my inquisitive Friend, what I had told thee concerning the *Influence* of the late *Regent* over certain *Ministers*, whom he had seduced by Art, and not unlikely, by Means less justifiable. Thou cannot forget neither, that the Successors of that *Prince*, in the *French* Administration, had successfully wrought upon his *Plan*, and had carefully pruned and nourished that *Influence* he had grafted with Skill and Industry. By means then, of this *Influence*, unnatural as it was, *France* was enabled to persuade, the only Nation in *Europe* capable of checking her Flight, to encrease her *Burthen*, already become intolerable, to drain her *Coffers*, and to discourage her *Trade*, the Source of her Wealth and Power. This was not all neither; for all the while she was thus enervating her *Neighbour*, she found Means to sow the Seeds of Discord and Discontent amongst her Sons, and to plant in their Hearts an inordinate Passion for that impoverishing, but bewitching Fiend, *Luxury*.

This was the Consumptive Condition of that once powerful Nation, at the Time the *Incantress* attacked the *Emperor*. *France*, who had for many Years together the chief Superintendency of her Political Body, was no Stranger to the

ill State of Health she was reduced to, from the bungling *Prescriptions* of her own unskilful, corrupt, native *Physicians*.

It was the Interest, without doubt, of this Kingdom to succour the *Emperor*, in Maintenance of the Ballance of Power; and I will believe also, it was the Inclination of most of her Inhabitants. The *Emperor* calls upon her; he puts her in mind of their former Friendship, he refreshes her Memory, as to her Engagements and her *Treaties*; and above all, he shews her, as if in a Mirror, the Dangers that must attend her *Neutrality*. But the good, the wise Prince, called upon her in vain; his *Expostulations* had no Effect, nor his *Threats* neither; for thou must know, *Pasquin*, he fairly threatned, when he found all other Means fail him; and, to tell thee a Secret perhaps thou dost not know of that Kingdom, there are very few Things she may not be *bullied* into, though one would not think her cowardly by her Aspect or Mien. *France*, and the present Queen of *Spain*, have often in their Turns, exposed her Foible to the World: Nay, a far less formidable Power than either of these; that is *P——a*, put her into dreadful Agonies, not many Years ago, by only holding up his *Cane* at her.

But then will you say, *Pasquin*, this once mighty Kingdom could not be so exhausted, but that she might, on such an Emergency as this was, endeavour to make some Effort in behalf of a Natural Ally, embarrassed for his Love of Publick Liberty. It is true, her Condition was much altered for the worse; but she certainly had still such a Remain of Strength left as might have afforded great Comfort to the *Emperor*, if she could

could have been prevailed upon to use it; and it is here, that our second Ingredient in the Political *Charm* mentioned before, began to operate.

Private Self-Interest got the better of National Faith and Publick Good on this Occasion, as thou shalt see by and by, it had on another of equal Concern, not only to the Emperor in particular, but to the far greater Part of *Europe*.

The political Bark in this Kingdom, under our present Consideration, had been steered for many Years before the Breaking out of the late War, by a native *Pilot*, little skilled in the Theory either of ancient or modern Navigation. He had some Knowledge of the Coasts of his own Country, and could work the Vessels well enough out of one Port or Creek into another; but as he was no *Artist*, he did not much care for long Voyages, because he had like to be *Shipwrecked* as often as he ventured on the Ocean. Besides, as he had a very warm, snug Post of it, he was not willing to be turned out, as he certainly would, if once a foreign Voyage came to be resolved upon. This Officer was no *Favourite* with the Captain; but as he was a useful Servant, could help him to make up the Ships *Accounts*, and raise Money to pay *Wages*, and defray other Expences; he had very much the *Ear*, though probably, not the Confidence of the *Commander*. He had however, on this Occasion Interest enough with a *She Favourite* of the Captain's, to persuade him that as the Ship was leaky and ill rigged, it would be imprudent, to put her to Sea, in a inclement boistrous Season. He had also insinuated to the Commander, on this Occasion, that many of the Ship's Crew were discontented, and ill intentioned towards him, and that it was likely, they would *Mutiny* in a long Voyage, and run away with the Ship. There

were no Wiles, no Stratagems he did not use to divert the Captain from venturing to Sea, in order to rescue his *Friend* out of the Hands of the Common Enemy.

The distressed Ally, unable to obtain effectual Succour, intreated that a few *Shallops* only might be sent to cover small Maritime Tracts of Land, which one of the Captain's *Predecessors* had helped to conquer for him: But even this small Request was refused him. The *Pilot* was inexorable; he was deaf to all Intreaty; and there was no engaging the Commander by any other *Interest*.

Thou must know, my old *Friend*, that this same *Pilot* spoke no Language but his Mother-Tongue, and therefore transacted all his Foreign Affairs by *Interpreters*. The distressed *Ally* thinking to ingratiate himself into the *Pilot's* Favour, sent him a *Fellow-Native* of his own, a chattering *Priest*, that he had preferred in compliment to the Captain's *Father*, to reason with him in that only Language he understood. But, alas, this *Agent* had no better Success with the Self-interested *Pilot*, than all the foreign ones who went before him. All Reason, but that of *Self-Security*, was lost upon a Man determined to see nor hear any thing that did not immediately square with his own Private Interest.

As I shall have Occasion presently, *Pasquin*, to make more honourable Mention of the aforesaid little dignified *Priest*, I desire thou wilt remember what is spoke of him in this Instance. We shall find him busy in a different Scene before long, which may chance make our *State-Pilot* wish he had heard him with better Manners, and more Patience. For, thou art to know, my Friend, that he treated the Port *Ecclesiastick*
very

very scurvily ; and thou art sensible how stomachful and revengeful that sort of Gentry are, when disgusted.—But to return to the Thread of my Subject :

The Emperor was left to shift for himself the best he could ; the People in the World he had most Reason to expect Friendship from ; the People his Family had signally served in their pretended *Distress*, abandon him, and give him up a Prey to the Hereditary *Enemy* of his House, and of the Liberties of *Europe*. The Distressed Prince flies to *Holland* for Aid ; but he fares no better than he did elsewhere.

It is true, the *Dutch* had more to say for themselves, than their *Neighbours* ; they refused with a better Grace, and gave more pregnant Reasons for their Conduct, than *others* had done, or were able to do. They made warm Professions of their Willingness to assist their Ally, but pleaded Inability, and founded their Insufficiency on the mistaken Conduct of their *Neighbours* for a Series of Years, before the War was broke out. They produced a long Catalogue of Grievances brought upon them by the ill concerted *Measures* of *those* who were nearest interested in their Welfare and Safety, and made it evidently appear, that the Continuance of their *Taxes*, the Increase of their *Debts*, the Decrease of their *Trade*, and their domestick *Distractions*, were solely owing to *those* who would now make a Merit of engaging them in the War, though nothing was truer than that they *themselves*, never intended to strike a Blow.

The *Dutch* admitted they were nearly interested in the Safety of the Emperor ; but on the other hand, they represented to him the ill Consequences that must attend a Rupture with a

Potent Neighbour, grown formidable from the *Corruption*, or mistaken *Policy* of certain *Ministers* that had no Views abstracted from their own private *Interest* and Personal *Influence* and *Security*. They alledged further, in their Justification, the Fluctuability of the *Councils* of *those* who pretended a Willingness to embark along with them in the War: That they were naturally fickle and unsteady; but that they had been so, to a Reproach, for near twenty Years last past: That they had got such a Habit of *Shifting* and *Changing*, and had such a bungling *Juggler* at the Head of their Affairs, that there was no depending one Hour on either their H — or H —. And above all, that as they were degenerated, and were not really the same courageous adventurous *People* they had been, there could be no Safety in engaging along with them, either by Sea or Land.

There was, without doubt, a good deal of Truth in the Allegations of *Holland*, infinitely more than in those from another *Quarter*; and the Emperor, for that Reason has, and probably will carry his Resentment to the One, much farther than to the Other. But, tho' much may be said in Justification of the *States* on this Occasion; yet, as it is most certain, that very much may be urged against them, we will examine their Conduct in another Light, than that their *Chiefs* thought proper to put it.

The *Dutch*, however artfully they had been embittered against *France*, towards the End of the last Century, as had been observed in another Place, have never been Enemies of the *French* Nation; on the contrary, they were, as they still are, better disposed towards that People, than any other in *Europe*. The Men of Sense in *Holland*,
land,

land, even during her Wars with *France*, entertained not those Jealousies of that Crown which the Commonalty were inspired with; and they have been inclined to think, particularly since the Attempts of *Louis XIV.* in 1672, that *France* had much rather have them for Allies, than Subjects. This Notion, which is far from being chimerical, has contributed to wear off the Remains of that Prejudice to *France*, which the Partisans of the House of *Orange* had endeavoured to create. It has had likewise another Effect in favour of *France*; that is, to induce them to look back, with Regret, on their Conduct towards her for the last half Century.

The *Hollanders* see with Concern, that their Jealousies of *France* have been productive of most or all the Calamities they feel; and that they might have engrossed most of the Trade of the World to themselves, if they had carefully cultivated that Harmony with *France* she was inclined to on her Side, ever since the Existence of the Commonwealth. In short, they seem to be cured of their Prejudice to that Crown; and to think that the Safety and Welfare of the Community depend more on Industry, Commerce, and a full *Exchequer*, than on an Enlargement of Territory, or the *Barrier Towns*.

There are still other Reasons, of a more private Nature, which may be assigned for the late pacifick Conduct of the *Dutch*, which I am inclined to believe had more Weight than those of a more Publick Nature: They are these,

Some Men in *Holland*, a very few in Number, as has been mentioned before, have ingrossed to themselves the whole Power of the *State*, and, like their Neighbour *Pilot*, were unwilling to go into Measures that should endanger the Influence,

ence they had acquired. Wars, naturally create Publick Burthens and Uneasiness, and as naturally open a Gate to that sort of Power, the *Military*, which would lessen, if not totally dissolve, that Influence now subsisting. The Power of a *Stadtholder* eclipses all subordinate Influence, and the Consequences of a War could not well fail of paving the present Prince of *Orange's* way to that high Station, especially when supported by the powerful *Alliance* he had acquired by his Marriage.

France was skilful enough to improve the Advantages which the aforesaid Alliance threw in her way; and left no Stone unturned to increase the publick Jealousy of a *House* that had constantly stood in her way to unlimited Power. She succeeded with the far greater Part of the Commonalty, and *Private Interest* and *Lust of Power*, operated effectually on the *Chiefs*.

Thus, *Pasquin*, have I endeavoured to satisfy thy Curiosity as to the Origin of the late War, and as to the Impediments that had withheld the Emperor's natural *Allies*, from succouring him in his Distress. I wish I may have said any thing to give thee that Satisfaction you seemed to wish for. At our next Interview I shall consider the Means by which an End was put to the War, the Conditions on which Peace has been restored, and the Consequences naturally arising from so unforeseen a Change in the System of *European* Politicks. Adieu, my old Friend, Day comes upon us in large Strides from the East. It is time to part—Adieu.

DIALOGUE IV.

Pasq. I Am pleased to see thee, *Marforio*, so exact to thy Appointment ; I shall be glad when thy Narrative is finished, that I may be at Leisure to look into the Conduct of the *Imperial* Troops who made great Havock in the Ecclesiastick State. Our mitred *Machiavels* are in dreadful Apprehensions that the Northern *Locusts* will soon spread themselves to the very Gates of our City. What thinks thou, my old Friend, of this Sacraligious Behaviour of a Son, who would be thought dutiful towards an infallible Spiritual Parent ? Is the whole Store of *Vatican* Artillery exhausted, or have the Children of the Church cloathed themselves with the Heretical Armour of Disobedience ?

Marf. It is an old Saying, and a true one, that Necessity hath no Law. The *Imperialists* plead it on this Occasion, and the old *Pomiff* is wise enough not to insist upon any other Excuse for the Incursions made into his Dominions. He is more prudent than to expose his want of Influence in an Age grown Wise and Refractory. Should he thunder and bellow as some of his *Predecessors* had done with Success, he would probably loose that little *Weight* he has, or would be thought to have ; therefore he sagely chuses rather to wink at small Affronts, than run the Risque of being stripped and insulted by Wholesale.

The World is now, *Pasquin*, quite another Thing than it was two Ages ago. The Fulminations of the *Vatican* are very little regarded by even those Princes who own the Necessity of Spiritual Unity. They consider *Popes* in a two-fold

fold Capacity, and treat him accordingly. In Matters purely Spiritual, they pay them a laudable Obedience; and in Points simply Temporal, they treat with them as they do with each other: But whenever this Court artfully endeavours to blend the Temporal with the Spiritual, as had been too often the Case, the Secular Powers have of late made Distinctions very little to her Advantage.

I own for my part, *Pasquin*, that I think the Laity to be now in as good a Road to Heaven, as when the Influence of our *Masters* was without Bounds or Measure; and tho' I am a fast Friend to Spiritual *Unity*, and therefore own the Necessity of a visible *Head*, I must confess myself inclined to confine the Power and Authority of that *Chief* to Spirituals only. — *Christ's* Charge to St. *Peter* was certain and determined; this Power delegated to him and his Successors, regarded not *Temporals*; the infallible *Law-giver* never intended his *Delegates* should employ the Authority lodged with them for any other Purpose than that of Salvation. — But hush, my Friend, I see the Reverend Troop coming this way, convoying the *Venerable* to a Neighbouring sick Princess; they will ill brook to hear me arraign their Power. Let us be wise then and drop a Subject which may draw the Weight of the *Holy Office* upon us. Let me rather pursue the subject Matter of our Meeting. I will dispatch it in as few Words as I can, that thou may'st be at Liberty to comfort thy old Friend *Alberoni* at *Ravenna*, who suffers much in Mind for the late Slip in his Conduct, and at his large out-goings for Corn and Hay.

Thy Memory, *Pasquin*, bad as you are pleased to represent it on some certain Occasions, cannot so far fail thee as to forget the Progress of Conquest

Conquest during the Continuance of the late War, therefore I shall mention only such Particulars of it as will be necessary towards bringing to Light the Means that brought it to a Conclusion.

Our good *Pontiff*, from Motives of real Charity, assumed the Office of Mediator as soon as Hostilities began on the *Rhine*; but as one of the Parties at Variance, had every thing to hope for from the Consequences of the War, his Success did not answer the Piety of his Intentions. The Mediation still went on, but without much Appearance of answering the Design of it till after the Surrender of *Dantzick*. That Blow seemed so far to have cured *France* of the gross *Deafness* she had been seized with from the Beginning of the War, that she could then hear the Monosyllable *Peace* without being in a Passion. The pious Pastor congratulated her on the Recovery of that amiable *Sense*, and began to entertain Hopes of making a thorough Cure, when another sort of *Mediation* was set on foot by the Maritime Powers, who seemed jealous that the *Scarlet Wh—e* should have the Glory of forging out General Tranquillity.

France, who wished for a Pretext to spin out the War, was not only glad to have this Opportunity to pay a Compliment to the Secular *Mediators*, but also pleased to be rid of the Importunities of the Spiritual *Leech*. The Emperor, on the Contrary, was sensibly concerned that the Current of the Mediation had been altered; but the Nature of his Case did not admit of *Choice*.

He knew the Weight of Spiritual Interposition; it was Sincere and Disinterested, and could not therefore well fail of Success. But the other he believed,

believed, as it was founded on *Fear* and *Self-Interest*, would be attended with no Degree of Success. Besides, he was sensible the *Pacifick Project* had been the Off-spring but of one of the *Mediating Powers*, and that the other had been *lugged* in only to give it the better Colour. And to tell thee a Secret, *Pasquin*, the Emperor had no Opinion of either the Integrity or Capacity of some of the *Ministers* employ'd in the Negotiation, and therefore was sorry the *Basket* was taken out of clean nimble *Hands*, and entrusted with the *clumsy* and *defiled*. He did not question the good Intentions of the *Principals* in this Second *Mediation*; but the Under *Agents* were by no Means to his *Imperial* Goust.

Soon after this second *Mediation* was set a-foot, the Battle of *Parma* was fought with equal Bravery, but not with equal Success. The Emperor's Circumstances required more substantial Aid than bare *Mediation*. It was about this Time he sent the little *Mitered Englishman*, mentioned in my last Discourse, to *Britain*, in order to engage her to mediate with Sword in hand. The *British* Monarch acquiesced in his Reasons, and seemed determined to give his distressed *Ally* Proofs of his Friendship: But his Council was of another Opinion, and the brave Prince was persuaded to act the *Mediator* only against his own private Opinion.

The *Dignitary* seeing simple *Expostulation* to be of no Effect with the *Minister*, thought to quicken his Pace by the Spur of Jealousy. To this End then, he cabals with the *Minister's* Personal Enemies; the Secret was soon discovered, as he designed it should be; but his *Craft* had quite another Consequence than he proposed. The *Minister*, it is true, was alarmed, but not in the least

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least moved from his Pacifick Resolution. The Edge of his Resentment was turned against the caballing *Agent* ; he treated him with Harshness and Cruelty, and employed all his Weight to have him recalled and discarded. The Emperor, though satisfied of the Ability and Integrity of his Emiffary, complied with the Request of a Man he had still some Hopes of gaining to his Interest. But, alas, he might as well hope to move Mount *Ætna*, as to alter a *Man* determined upon Self-Preservation.

The *Prelate* was returned to *Vienna*, and gave his Master a faithful Account of the State of the *Nation* he had been sent to. Thou may be sure, *Pasquin*, he painted the *British* Minister in Colours not much to his Advantage, though probably he drew him to the Life.

The Emperor now growing tired of an unequal War, and out of Humour with all *those* that had abandoned him, began to entertain serious Thoughts of Accommodation, but was at a Loss how to propose it to an haughty Enemy, who would not fail of improving his Condescension to his Disadvantage. The little *Prelate* observing the Bent of his Master's Inclinations, begged Leave to try his Skill at cooking up the *Pacifick Ragoust*. His Imperial Master, willing to be at Ease, and out of all Hopes as to the Success of the Mediation on Foot, condescends to gratify the Ambition of his trusty Servant.

It must be owned, the Emperor could not have made Choice of a fitter *Agent* for the intricate Jobb he had to manage : He was bred in *Paris*, was Master of the *French* Language, and perfectly skilled in all the Grimace, Shruggs, and Double-Dealing of the *French* Court : He was intimately acquainted with Numbers of the *French* Nobility,
and

and was in the Confidence of the most intriguing Members among the *French* Jesuits: He had a *Patron* of great Influence at the Court of *Rome*, and had a Personal Acquaintance with Cardinal *Alberoni* since the Year 1712, whom all the World thought to have had the Confidence of the Queen of *Spain*. Thus superlatively qualified was the *Bishop* of *N——e*, when he was permitted by the Emperor to exercise his Talents in the weighty Business of Peace.

His first Care was to give his Master a Relish for the first *Plan* offered by the Court of *Rome*, and to reject all that should come from another *Quarter*: He found no Difficulty to gain upon him as to the Latter, but had a good deal to render the first palatable in the Gross, tho' some Parts of it went down with Pleasure.

I perceive, *Pasquin*, thy Impatience to know the Nature of this first *Plan*, and therefore shall gratify thee with a summary Description of it, before I proceed further. As for the second Sketch of a *Plan*, it has been long since made publick to thee, and all the World beside.

The present *Pontiff*, and most of his pious Predecessors, had observed with deep Concern, that the very Entity of the *Reformation*, and the Growth of it, had been owing to the ambitious Jealousies of the Houses of *Austria* and *Bourbon*: They had observed also, that most of the National *Wrongs* that had been committed for the last Century, had been owing to the Dissentions of those two powerful Families; and they were not ignorant, that most, or all the Calamities of *Europe*, had been occasioned by the mistaken Politicks of the Courts of *Vienna* and *Paris*. It was often attempted by these Spiritual Fathers, to remove a Prejudice that had been productive of so great Mischiefs: but

but something always stood in their Way to obstruct the glorious Work. The Impediments, for the most part, were founded on general Ambition and Lust of Power in the very Princes themselves, but sometimes on the particular Ambition of their *Ministers*, who found their Account in the Calamities of the Publick.

The Holy Father, ever since his Elevation, had assiduously turned his Thoughts towards bringing about an *Union* so desirable in itself, and so necessary for the Ease and Increase of the Faithful. He found a Disposition in each Party, provided certain Concessions could be obtained; but as the reciprocal Demands of the Parties were out of all Measure, the good *Father* despaired of reducing them to Reason, till some great Change should happen in the Circumstances of one of the Parties. He imagined the breaking out of the late War, had happily wrought that Change he so ardently wished for, and therefore redoubled his Solicitations as soon as Hostilities were begun. The Emperor, who, before the War, had been most extravagant in his Demands, was now become more pliant; but *France*, on the Contrary, was become less so, whilst she conceived any Hopes of securing a Footing in *Poland*. However, as the taking of *Dantzick* had a little cooled her, the pious *Mediator* was not without Hopes of succeeding in some reasonable Time, when the Interposition of the *Maritime Powers* broke in upon all his Measures, as had been mentioned before.

I shall not enter here into every minute Particular of the *Pontiff's* Plan, imagining it will satisfy thy present Curiosity, *Pasquin*, to have it in the General; let it then suffice thee, to know it ascertained the Property of each Party in so

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equitable

equitable and judicious a Manner, as to leave no Room for future Contest or Incroachment. It was not founded on the Rights of antient Title or present Possession, but rather on real Convenience, and solid Advantage. For Instance, The *Emperor* was to be made sensibly, that his Possession of the *Netherlands* was of no real Benefit to him, and that it would entail perpetual Expence on his Heirs; that as those Provinces were of far greater Advantage to the secret *Enemies* of his House, and Faith, than they were to himself, or could be hereafter to his Family, it would be for his Interest to accept of a reasonable Equivalent in Lieu of them; that his true Interest should induce him, to think rather of enlarging himself in another Quarter, then set his Heart upon preserving the Possession of distant Territories, which would prove an eternal Bone of Contention between his Family and the only Power in the World, able to disturb and distress it.

As for the Family of *Lorrain*, which the *Emperor*, had all along destined to adopt on his Failure of Issue Male, the Plan provided such a reasonable Equivalent for their antient Inheritance, which had been for above an Age dependant on the Courtesy of *France*, that there was no Doubt, they would accept of it with Alacrity.

Then, as for *Italy*, it was to be so equitable divided, that each Party, concerned in the Division, must have found it his Interest, to quit all old Pretensions, and adhere inviolably to the Terms of the new Partition. For Instance, The Dutchie of *Parma*, *Placentia*, and *Tuscany*, as they lay contiguous to the *Milanesse* and *Mantuan*, must have been thought, by the *Emperor* and his Family, more valuable than *Naples* and *Sicily*, especially
when

when the Territory of *Genoa* was to be annexed to them, on certain very easy Conditions.

In order to compleat the Dominions of the Imperial House in *Italy*, the Dutchies of *Modena* and *Regio* were to be exchanged for an Equivalent that could not fail of the Approbation of the Princes of the House of *Esté*. And that nothing should be omitted, in order to render the Scheme palatable, the Pontiff was willing to allow the Emperor some Conveniencies, on the Side of the *Ferrareze*, for a moderate Equivalent nearer *Rome*. The separate Interest of *Venice* and *Savoy* were to be settled on Terms agreeable to both.

The Distributions in the *North* were by this Plan sketched out with equal Zeal, Judgment, and Impartiality; and as its Basis was chiefly religious, the Crown of *Poland* was to be made *Hereditary* in the House of *Saxony*, lately become Orthodox. The Restoration of *Stanislaus's* Paternal Estate, and the Concessions already mentioned, to be made to *France*, were thought sufficient to satisfy that Prince for the Loss of the *Polish* Crown; and as he had no Heirs but the Queen of *France*, the Reversion of his Patrimony was to descend to a Grand-Daughter, matched with the Prince of *Saxony*.

The Emperor was to find his Account in this Disposition; for in Consideration of the *Polish* Crown, *Augustus* and his Consort were not only to renounce to the Succession of *Austria*, but likewise make a Cession of certain Districts in *Poland*, and in *Upper Saxony*, contiguous to *Silesia* and *Bohemia*.

There were also some Articles, concerning the House of *Bavaria*, and *Palatine*, and some other *Catholick* Princes in *Germany*, which tended to the

Safety and Satisfaction of all the Parties interested in the Performance of them.

Portugal was effectually secured by this Plan, from the superior Power of *Spain*, and this last was not only to be made easy with relation to any Dislike she could have to the new Division of *Italy*, but likewise, was to have been assisted towards procuring entire Satisfaction nearer Home.

Upon the whole, this pious Plan was so calculated, that it could not fail, if it had been agreed to by the Courts of *Vienna* and *Paris*, of answering the Ends proposed, which were the intire Safety and Satisfaction of all the principal *Catholick* Powers of *Europe*, the Redress of the Injured, the Abolishment of Heresy and Error, and the Restoration of Primitive Religion throughout Christendom. It would be the Interest of the confederated *Catholick* Powers, to sit down contented with each other, and turn their common Force against the secret and avowed Enemies of their Faith. The *Emperor* might then with Safety turn his Arms against the *Turk*, and conquer new Realms of far greater Convenience and Advantage to his Family, than those small Districts he was to oblige *France* with; and this he might have done without Dread of that Crown, whose Interest it would be, to assist him, and guard his Rear, whilst he should be making new Acquisitions that could not affect her. The *Venetians*, and the King of the *Sicilies* might at the same Time enlarge their Dominions on the other Side the *Adriatick* Gulph, whilst *Spain* extended her Conquests on the Continent of *Africk*.

These, my dear *Pasquin*, were the Endeavours, this the Plan, which our wise Spiritual and Temporal

poral Lord offered to the Consideration of the Courts of *Vienna* and *Paris*, as soon as *France* had taken Fort *Kiel*. It was a pious and Glorious Scheme, well digested and worthy of the visible Head of the *Catholick* Church. And though it may be looked upon as too General, yet if the *Emperor* and *France* could have found their particular Accounts in the Execution of it, there is no Doubt, but it would have had the projected Effect. For whenever those two Powers can be brought to a right good Understanding, which was the chief View of this Plan, it is probable that this Scheme, or somewhat very like it, will be the Consequence of the desirable Harmony. And I am much mistaken, or the happy Hour is now near at Hand, when the two Illustrious Houses of *Austria* and *Bourbon* are to be tied by the strictest Bands of Union and Concord. — But more of this hereafter.

This was the Plan, I told thee, my Friend, the Bishop of N——e intended to work upon, this was it he wanted to cook up to the Relish of his Master's Palate. He turned it, and tossed it, and threw it into twenty different Shapes, till at last he so managed it that the *Emperor* could bear the Sight of it, and even the Smell. Count *Zinzendorf* was of Singular Use to him on this Occasion; for as this great Minister had been an old faithful Servant, and understood perfectly well, the Interest of his August Family, the *Emperor* gave great Attention to what he offered in Justification of the Plan.

He laid before him with uncommon Clearness, the Injuries his Illustrious House had received from her Prejudice to *France*, and her Friendship to those Powers that had abandoned him in the Day of his greatest Distress. He put him

in Mind, that *France* had always gained by the Pushes his Family had made upon her, and that the known Enemies of his *Faith* had acquired Strength along with her, as his own was impaired. He beseeched him to consider how trivial the Revenues of the *Netherlands* were; if compared with the Expence and Perplexity that attended the Possession of them. How much more advantagious that Country was to certain *Powers*; that had essentially disobliged him, than to himself; and that, as those Provinces had been heretofore, so would they, for the Time to come, be the Means of Eternal Quarrels between his Family and that of *France*. He further inforced this Part of his Argument, by shewing his August Master, that *Spain* had been enfeebled by her Fondness for the *Netherlands*, and that even his own Disappointment, as to the *Spanish* Monarchy, was chiefly owing to the Views which *France* had, of annexing those Provinces to her other Dominions.

The Statesman puts his Master in Mind of the Superiority of *France*, and his own Inability of securing his Succession in the Manner he intended, except that Crown could be bought to the Interest of his Family; and he made it appear to him, that he could never purchase her Friendship on so easy Terms, as by gratifying her on the Side of the *Netherlands*. He said further, that he did not question but *France* would either give him, or procure for him an Equivalent, that would answer the Purpose of his Family much better, than the Possession of Countries that must always involve them in Wars and Confusions. And the wise Minister added, that as *France* could have no Views on the *German* Side of the *Rhine*, he might be satisfied,
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she would faithfully observe her Engagements, both with him and his Family, if she were once possessed of those Provinces that had so often brought her Arms into the Field.

The *Count* had reasoned with equal Judgment on the other Parts of the Plan, and had so effectually brought over the young Duke of *L — n*, the presumptive Heir, to his Opinion, that the Pious Emperor consented that the *Bishop* should be impowered, to act in such Manner, and by such Channels, as he should think proper ; but under such Restrictions, that his first Overtures should seem without Warrant or Authority.

The commissioned Prelate, willing to preserve Appearances, and to save the Credit and Honour of his Master, was of Opinion, the first Proposals to *France* should come to her, from some unbiassed Person of great Distinction, whom she could not suspect of being applyed to by the Court of *Vienna*. He had had the Honour of an early Acquaintance with the * * * * * a Prince of uncommon, natural and acquired Parts, who was always thought to be much more in the Interest of *France* than the *Emperor* ; though if the Truth were known, they were equally indifferent to him from very substantial Motives.

To this impartial *Prince* did the *Bishop* apply himself with the utmost Secresy, that he might prevail upon him, to feel the Pulse of the *French* Court, as to Terms of Peace. And that he might not imagine, he himself had acted by the Consent and Privy of the Emperor, he beseeched him to offer his Mediation at *Vienna* and *Paris*, at one and the same Time ; he laid before him the Advantages that must accrue to him and his Family, should his Meditation be attended with Success, and that, though it should not, the con-

tending Powers could not but view his Intentions in an advantageous Light. He made him the warmest Professions of his Zeal for his Service, and assured him, that he had undertaken that tedious Journey, partly to promote his Interest by a Peace between the *Catholick* Princes.

The Prince, grown Wise from Experience, and Cautious from Adversity, was unwilling to embark in an Affair of so great Moment, without some better Authority than that of a meddling Priest, of whom he had conceived some Jealousies, ever since he had been recommended to the Emperor for the *Miter*. But upon his shewing him his Powers, which he was now under a Necessity of producing, in order to engage the wary Statesman, the Prince undertook the Work with great Chearfulness.

The Overtures were made with so great Delicacy and Judgment, that the very same Couriers that carried them to *Vienna* and *Paris*, returned with the Acknowledgement and Approbation of the *Emperor* and King of *France*. This early Approbation could only have Regard to the Person of the Mediator, and the Manner by which he proposed the Parties should negotiate. Second Couriers were dispatched, with the Out-lines only of the Plan the Mediator intended to produce, when the Parties should think proper to explain themselves at large. And this Sketch was coloured with so great Art and Impartiality, that it produced a more explicit Explanation than could have been expected so soon. But as *France* insisted more strenuously, than was consistent with the *Emperor's* Interest or Honour, on certain Points relating to *Spain*, it was judged necessary, to create the Jealousy between those Courts that should slacken *France* towards the

the younger Branch of her House.——Here it was, the most refined Policy was practised with Success.

I must now refresh thy Memory, *Pasquin*, with what I had said of an Intimacy between the Bishop and Cardinal *Alberoni*, so long ago, as the Year 1712. It was now thought expedient, he should practice on his old Acquaintance, in order to raise the concerted Misunderstanding between the Courts of *Paris* and *Madrid*. To this End then, did the Bishop post away to *Ravenna*, the Place of his Eminency's Residence at that Time. After the usual Ceremonies were over, the Pacifick Agent insinuated to the Cardinal, that the Court of *Vienna* was in the most favourable Disposition towards that of *Spain*; that the *Emperor* had the highest Regard for the Person of the Queen, and that, if proper Application was made to him for his youngest Daughter, he did not Doubt but Means might be found [of ascertaining the Dominion of *Don Carlos* in all the *Italian* Imperial Possessions, without farther Bloodshed. Much was said on one Side and the other, and many Difficulties were raised by the intriguing Cardinal; but the *Potion* was made so palatable at last, that the old Fox relished and swallowed it.

A Courier was immediately dispatched to *Spain*; but as the Queen's Approbation, of a Proposal so favourable to the particular Interest of her Family, was not doubted by the Cardinal, he proposed to the Bishop to open a Correspondence between him, and Count C—— then at the Head of the Imperial Army in the *Mantuan*, that the Affair might be ready prepared against the Return of his Courier. An Intercourse of Letters between the Count and his Eminency was accordingly agreed to and settled; and that the
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great Secret might be the better preserved, a faithful Domestick of the Bishop's was pitched upon to be the Messenger.

Several Letters passed between the Cardinal and the General, but this last, who had been early let into the Drift of this Negotiation, wrote a long Letter to his Eminency, congratulating him on the Success of his Endeavours, and assuring him, that he had received full Powers from his Master, to settle with him the Conditions of the future Marriage of the *Infant* and the youngest *Arch-dutchess*. This artful, ample Letter fell (designedly without doubt) in the Hands of the *French* Commander, and was immediately sent by him to his Court.

It is easy to imagine the Consternation which this Piece of Intelligence put the *French* Ministers into. They had had a Jealousy of *Spain*, ever since the Separation of her Troops, ordered to the Conquest of *Naples* and *Sicily*, which was heightened by her Refusal of ratifying the Treaty with *Sardinia*, concerning the *Milanese*; but now they were quite out of Patience, and determined no longer to obstruct the Work of Peace, in Compliment to a *Lady*, in whom they could propose neither Confidence nor Security.

From this, *Pasquin*, *France* went sincerely into the Business of Peace, and the impartial *Mediator* found her no longer obstructing the Progress of his Mediation. The *Bishop* was set out for *Paris*, amply impowered and instructed, and soon after *Monsieur L'Et*—— was privately dispatched for *Vienna*, where the last Hand was put to the *Preliminaries*, which answered all the Ends of the most solemn Treaty, though they wanted the Form.

It was said, that Count *S*——'s Match from *Mentz* to the *Moselle*, had facilitated the Peace; but

but take it from me, my good Friend, they spoke without Book, who imputed the Condescension of *France* to the Motions of that General. That March was so far from being a Secret to *France*, many Days before it took Effect, that it was concerted and executed at her Instance, in order to facilitate hereafter the Execution of certain Stipulations in her Favour. But I do not wonder, *Pasquin*, that the Ignorant should be Strangers to the Mystery of that Politick March, when they are so to the Treaty, on which it was founded. The World is so much in the Dark as to this whole Pacifick Transaction, that I have not as yet heard of one Speculatist, and many, thou knowest, we have here in *Rome*, that ventured to account for its Origin or Completion. The Whole of it is a Riddle not to be unfolded but by Time or myself.

Thou hast had, *Pasquin*, a Set of Preliminary Articles put into thy Hands for Prince *Corfini* at *Naples*, and many Copies of that Set, which has been dispersed about *Europe*; but, alas, my old Neighbour, the Set thus industriously published, contains not a Tenth Part of the mysterious Articles agreed to and ratified. Just as much and no more is divulged, as was thought necessary for the present Purposes of the Contracting Powers. The secret Articles, whenever they are known, will strike a Terror into those who are now most elated at the Prospect of General Tranquillity; and those, who are thought to have most Reason to repine at the present Pacification, will, on that Joyful Day, have most Reason to exult.

The whole Political System of *Europe* has been altered by this Peace; it has cancelled all former Treaties, to make Way for one, like to be as permanent as it is founded on Motives truly Religious and Equitable. And though, the particular
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Views of the Queen of Sp— are not wholly gratified by the Tenors of this Treaty, yet the general Interest of that Royal Family has been most affectionately provided for.

It would take up more Time than we have to spare at present, *Pasquin*, should I attempt performing my last Promise to you, in its Intire. Therefore let it suffice to tell thee, that the Peace under our present Consideration is founded chiefly on the Pious, Equitable *Plan*, offered by our most Holy Father. There are some Variations, it is true, but they do not affect Essentials. The whole Spirit of the first *Plan* is preserved, though this last be fashioned a little more to the present Situation of Affairs.

The Day breaks in upon us, my dear old Companion, we must away. If hereafter thou should insist on a more specifick Performance of my Promise in Relation to the Conditions of this Peace, and the Consequences that may attend it, thou shalt command me any Night, after the first of the New Year, on which thou knowest we usually have ample Employment from the *How-dy's*, and feigned Reconciliations of the Day before.—Farewell.

F I N I S.



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